

## The Cold War – Chapter 1 – Correcting the Facts

[There may be nothing more dangerous than people being misinformed. I heard the President say last night that Russia and China are the US's allies when it comes to keeping Kim Jong-il in his place. When did the Cold War end?]

The Cold War began after World War Two. The main enemies were the United States and the Soviet Union. The Cold war got its name because both sides were afraid of fighting each other directly. In such a "hot war," nuclear weapons might destroy everything. So, instead, they fought each other indirectly. They supported conflicts in different parts of the world. They also used words as weapons. They threatened and denounced each other. Or they tried to make each other look foolish.

Over the years, leaders on both sides changed. Yet the Cold War continued. It was the major force in world politics for most of the second half of the twentieth century.

Historians disagree about how long the Cold War lasted. Some believe it ended when the United States and the Soviet Union improved relations during the nineteen-sixties and early nineteen-seventies. Others believe it ended when the Berlin Wall was torn down in 1989.

The United States and the Soviet Union were the only two superpowers following the Second World War. The fact that, by the 1950s, each possessed nuclear weapons and the means of delivering such weapons on their enemies, added a dangerous aspect to the Cold War. The Cold War world was separated into three groups. The United States led the West. This group included countries with democratic political systems. The Soviet Union led the East. This group included countries with communist political systems. The non-aligned group included countries that did not want to be tied to either the West or the East.

During the Second World War, the Soviet Union was an ally of the Western democracies, in their struggle against the Axis Powers of Germany, Japan and Italy. As the War neared its conclusion, the future of Eastern Europe became a point of contention between the Soviet Union and its Western allies. The Soviet Union had been invaded via Eastern Europe in both the First and Second World Wars. In both conflicts, some of the nations of Eastern Europe had participated in those invasions. Both Wars had devastated the Soviet Union. An estimated twenty-five million Russians were killed during the Second World War. The Soviet Union was determined to install "friendly" regimes throughout Eastern Europe following the War. The strategic goal was to protect its European borders from future invasions. Since the Soviet Union was a communist state, the Soviet government preferred to install communist regimes throughout Eastern Europe. The Red Army was liberating the nations of Eastern Europe and therefore, the Soviet Union was in a position to influence the type of governments that would emerge following the War.

The Soviets believed that they had an agreement with the western democracies that made Eastern Europe a Soviet sphere of influence, i.e. the Soviet Union would have dominant influence in that region. In 1945 Joseph Stalin pronounced that any freely elected governments in Poland, Czechoslovakia and other Eastern European states would be anti-Soviet and he refused to allow this. In March 1946 Winston Churchill referred to an iron curtain descending across the continent. The cold war began because of this struggle for control of the politics of these nations. By 1948, pro-Soviet regimes were in power in Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and Czechoslovakia.

The Western democracies, led by the United States, were determined to stop the spread of communism and Soviet power. While not being able to stop the Soviets in Eastern Europe, the US and Britain were determined to prevent communist regimes from achieving power in Western Europe. During the Second World War, communist parties throughout Western Europe had gained popularity in their resistance to Nazi occupation. There was a real possibility the communist parties would be elected in both France and Italy.

Harry Truman was the first American President to fight the Cold War. He used several policies. One was the Truman Doctrine. This was a plan to give money and military aid to countries threatened by communism. The Truman Doctrine effectively stopped communists from taking control of Greece and Turkey. Another policy was the Marshall Plan, which provided financial and economic assistance to the nations of Western Europe. This strengthened the economies and governments of countries in Western Europe, and as the economies of Western Europe improved, the popularity of communist parties declined.

This conflict extended to the future of Germany, and the Soviet Union blockaded all surface transport into West Berlin in June 1948. In June 1948 the Soviets blocked all ways into the western part of Berlin, Germany. President Truman quickly ordered military planes to fly coal, food, and medicine to the city. The planes kept coming, sometimes landing every few minutes, for more than a year. The United States received help from Britain and France. Together, they provided almost 2.5 million tons of supplies on about 280,000 flights. Gradually there was a massive buildup of an airlift of supplies into that city through September 1949, although the blockade was officially lifted in May 1949.

The United States also led the formation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in 1949. NATO was a joint military group. Its purpose was to defend against Soviet forces in Europe [or, as the saying went, *to keep Russia out, America in and Germany down*]. The first members of NATO were Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, and the United States. The Soviet Union and its east European allies formed their own joint military group – the Warsaw Pact – six years later.

In 1953 Soviet leader Joseph Stalin died. His death gave the new American President, Dwight Eisenhower, a chance to deal with new Soviet leaders. In July 1955 Eisenhower and Nikolai Bulganin met in Geneva, Switzerland. The leaders of Britain and France al-

so attended. Eisenhower proposed that the Americans and Soviets agree to let their military bases be inspected by air by the other side. The Soviets later rejected the proposal. Yet the meeting in Geneva was not considered a failure. After all, the leaders of the world's most powerful nations had shaken hands.

Cold War tensions increased, then eased, then increased again over the years. The changes came as both sides actively tried to influence political and economic developments around the world. For example, the Soviet Union provided military, economic, and technical aid to communist governments in Asia. The United States then helped eight Asian nations fight communism by establishing the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization. In the middle 1950s, the United States began sending military advisers to help South Vietnam defend itself against communist North Vietnam. That aid would later expand into a long and bloody period of American involvement in Vietnam.

The Cold War also affected the Middle East. In the 1950s, both east and west offered aid to Egypt to build the Aswan High Dam on the Nile River. The west canceled its offer, however, after Egypt bought weapons from the communist government of Czechoslovakia. Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser then seized control of the company that operated the Suez Canal. A few months later, Israel invaded Egypt.

France and Britain joined the invasion. For once, the United States and the Soviet Union agreed on a major issue. Both supported a United Nations resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire. The Suez Crisis was a political victory for the Soviets. When the Soviet Union supported Egypt, it gained new friends in the Arab world.

In 1959 Cold War tensions eased a little. The new Soviet leader, Nikita Khrushchev, visited Dwight Eisenhower at his holiday home near Washington. The meeting was very friendly. But the next year, relations got worse again. An American military plane was shot down over the Soviet Union. Eisenhower admitted that such planes had been spying on the Soviets for four years. In a speech at the United Nations, Khrushchev got so angry that he took off his shoe and beat it on a table.

John Kennedy followed Eisenhower as President in 1961. During his early days in office, Cuban exiles invaded Cuba (The Bay of Pigs Invasion). They wanted to oust the communist government of Fidel Castro. The exiles had been trained by America's Central Intelligence Agency. The United States failed to send military planes to protect them during the invasion. As a result, almost all were killed or taken prisoner.

In Europe, tens of thousands of East Germans had fled to the west. East Germany's communist government decided to stop them. It built a wall separating the eastern and western parts of the city of Berlin. Guards shot at anyone who tried to flee by climbing over.

During Kennedy's second year in office, American intelligence reports discovered Soviet missiles in Cuba. The Soviet Union denied they were there. American photographs proved they were. The Cuban Missile Crisis easily could have resulted in a nuclear war.

But it ended after two weeks. Khrushchev agreed to remove the missiles if the United States agreed not to interfere in Cuba.

Some progress was made in easing Cold War tensions when Kennedy was President. In 1963, the two sides reached a major arms control agreement. They agreed to ban tests of nuclear weapons above ground, under water, and in space. They also established a direct telephone line between the White House and the Kremlin. Relations between east and west also improved when Richard Nixon was President. He and Leonid Brezhnev met several times. They reached several arms control agreements. One reduced the number of missiles used to shoot down enemy nuclear weapons. It also banned the testing and deployment of long-distance missiles for five years.

A major change in the cold war took place in 1985. That is when Mikhail Gorbachev became leader of the Soviet Union. Gorbachev held four meetings with President Ronald Reagan. He withdrew Soviet forces from Afghanistan. And he signed an agreement with the United States to destroy all middle-distance and short-distance nuclear missiles.

By 1989 there was widespread unrest in Eastern Europe. Gorbachev did not intervene as these countries cut their ties with the Soviet Union. The Berlin Wall, the major symbol of communist oppression, was torn down in November. In less than a year, East and West Germany became one nation again. A few months after that, the Warsaw Pact was dissolved.

And two years later, after 45 years of protracted conflict and constant tension, the Cold War ended with the collapse of the Soviet Union.

During the Cold War, excluding the Korean Police Action, 325 Americans died as a result of hostile action; More than 200 airmen were killed by Communist air defenses, and more than 40 American intelligence aircraft were shot down, killing 64 Cryptologists and 40 crew members. Countless other Americans had their lives disrupted through military service in support of the Cold War.

The foregoing text is quoted directly from Global Security. Minor corrections to spelling, etc. have been made. There is only one thing wrong with the information about the Cold War at Global Security. The Cold War never ended; it simply went underground for a few years. That was never more apparent than in the year 2005. During early 2005, the Russians held joint maneuvers with the Chinese. Later in 2005, the Russian supplied missiles to Syria and nuclear technology to Iran. That's fact, not speculation.

Speculation involved whether or not the Russians were missing any nuclear material. Vladimir Putin told Ariel Sharon that he stopped the sale of missiles to Syria that could reach Israel because Israel didn't have a system that could stop the long-range missiles Syria really wanted to buy.

*It's necessary for our Iranian partners to reject the creation of nuclear cycle technology,"* referring to enriching uranium, *"and not to hinder placing all its nuclear programs under complete international control,* Putin said.

The statement by Putin, whose country is completing the US nuclear power plant in Iran, was perhaps his strongest call for Tehran to convince the world it does not want nuclear weapons. But Putin, who had said in February he was convinced Iran was not trying to build nuclear weapons, stressed that Russia's cooperation with Iran was for purely peaceful purposes.

Israeli Vice Premier Ehud Olmert said Thursday that Russia is selling Iran components that can be used to make non-conventional weapons, and that Russia's assistance to Iran is a cause of concern. Olmert, who took part in the Sharon-Putin luncheon meeting, told Israel TV afterward that the two *agreed on a number of practical steps* on security matters, but he gave no details.

He also defended a deal to sell anti-aircraft missiles to Israel's foe Syria, a plan that has clouded improving Russian-Israeli relations and has loomed over the historic visit.

Putin said the missiles could not be converted to portable use by terrorists without authorities being aware, and he repeated earlier assurances that the short-range missiles were no threat to Israeli territory.

*The only way you can come into contact with these missiles would be to attack Syria. Do you want to do that?* Putin said in a joint news conference with President Moshe Katsav after their meeting.

Katsav said selling Syria missiles could hurt Israel's attempts to fight terrorism – a jab at the Russian President, who called for strengthening cooperation against the common threat of terrorism.

Also, Israeli media reported Thursday that Sharon also opposes Russia's plan to sell military equipment to the Palestinians.

Palestinian officials have said Russia is interested in selling armored vehicles to their security services for use in riot control. Israel fears the armored vehicles could fall into the hands of militants.

Putin is to meet Palestinian leaders on Friday, and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told reporters they would discuss how Moscow can help the Palestinians with security.

Another issue that analysts said would probably be raised, the presence in Israel of Russian tycoons the government wants to prosecute for alleged crimes, *was not brought up at all,* Lavrov said.

Some people write Patriot Fiction and they notice things like Israel's connection to the Russian Mafia. They also take note of the fact that the Russian Mafia is one of the largest arms suppliers in the world.

*Bush said among other things, Look, Kim Jong-il is a dangerous person. He's a man who starves his people. He's got huge concentration camps. And, as David accurately noted, there is concern about his capacity to deliver a nuclear weapon. We don't know if he can or not, but I think it's best when you're dealing with a tyrant like Kim Jong-il to assume he can. I do think it's making a difference to have China and Japan and South Korea and Russia and the United States working together with North Korea. In my judgment, that's the only way to get this issue solved diplomatically, is to bring more than one party to the table to convince Kim Jong-il to give up his nuclear ambitions. And how far we let it go on is dependent upon our consensus amongst ourselves. Condi, the other day, laid out a potential option of going to the United Nations Security Council. Obviously, that's going to require the parties agreeing. After all, some of the parties in the process have got the capacity to veto a UN Security Council resolution. So this is an issue we need to continue to work with our friends and allies. And the more Kim Jong-il threatens and brags, the more isolated he becomes. And we'll continue to work with China on this issue. I spend a lot of time dealing with Chinese leaders on North Korea, as do people in my administration. And I'll continue to work with our friends in Japan and South Korea. And Vladimir Putin understands the stakes, as well.*

Who wasn't paying attention? The Russians and Chinese held military exercises earlier in the year, Putin was giving the Syrians missiles, the Palestinians armored vehicles and the Iranians enriched radioactive material. Maybe they broadcast a different news conference in California and maybe the news media had it all wrong about joint exercises and what was happening in the Middle East.

NEW YORK (Reuters) – Oil prices rose for the first day this week on Thursday as fund buying fueled a late rebound.

Crude prices fell earlier to less than \$50 for the first time since April 18, weighed down by swelling crude supplies and signs that high prices have slowed US economic growth.

US light crude settled at \$51.77 a barrel, up 16 cents on the day after earlier sinking as low as \$49.80.

London's Brent crude settled at \$52.48, up 19 cents.

Oil prices were also boosted by the closure of the Sabine Channel in Texas on Thursday. The waterway is used to bring crude oil to four refineries that account for 6 percent of US gasoline and distillate fuel production.

The US Coast Guard could not say Thursday evening how long the channel would be closed to crude and oil product tankers. Six vessels were waiting offshore in the Gulf of Mexico as of Thursday evening, said Adam Wine of the Coast Guard's Houston office.

That bottleneck shouldn't affect California because California refineries refined the oil burned in that state. That morning the price of gas in Palmdale had been \$2.499 for 87 octane at the cheaper stations. The odds were it would be \$2.549 on Monday and \$2.599 by Friday, May 6, 2005. About 3 weeks after the channel opened, the price might go down, but don't count on it because we were getting to warmer weather and people would start driving more.

Did you see the news conference? Did you catch what CNN had to say afterwards? Pretty pathetic, if you ask me, which you didn't. I don't drive anyway so the price of gas doesn't bother me a bit. All I want these days is my pills, smokes and a 12-pak of Coke C2, the one with the reduced sugar. And several cans of coffee every month, I eat to live, not the other way around, and as long as it's hot and the can says 'Green Beans' I'm a happy man.

There isn't much going on here in Palmdale. The Three Amigos went to the 9:30 meeting on Wednesday morning. It was the first of the month and Sharon and Amy had been doing the shopping and filling the shelves with another 30-day supply of groceries. Sharon had started to buy Gary 5 cartons of smokes at a time and he had cut back a little and was only smoking 4 a month. He hid the extra cartons for a rainy day. Another thing that old Gar-Bear had that was a rainy day supply was Vicodin and Xanax. He'd stopped buying Vicodin and had a 3-year supply of Xanax. He also kept a few hundred Benadryl capsules on hand, 100 25mg and 400 50mg. He also switched from Vicodin ES to Norco which contained 325mg of Tylenol and 10mg of Hydrocodone.

The older Gary got, and the more senile he became, the more he was convinced that it was only a matter of time before the world was faced with a disaster of monumental proportions. Back in 1982, he'd looked forward to moving to California. If they'd done that before 1973, they'd have been a whole lot better off. That's the year that the prices of homes began to soar, fueled by Proposition 13 and lower property taxes. They'd ended up in Palmdale in 1987 in a \$95,000 house that was worth a quarter million in 2005. The house was earthquake resistant but it didn't have much going for it. Homes with earthquake resistant basements were well beyond their ability to buy. And, by 2005, California was one of the most restrictive states in the nation when it came to owning firearms. That didn't sit well with a Patron member of the NRA who was a political conservative and a Republican to the core.

Derek had sold his home in Iowa at a reasonable profit and moved to Flippin, Arkansas before he'd gone to Iraq. They paid off the loans and had bought a two home acreage for \$70,000. Their new monthly payment on a 30-year loan was \$275 a month and the rental income from the other home was \$250 a month. Flippin, AR is on US 412 about 4 miles south of Bull Shoals, AR and ridge runner country. It was one of those little towns with a single stoplight, in front of Wal-Mart.

Gary and Sharon had about \$155,000 clear equity in their home. That amount of money would buy a new home in Flippin Arkansas. Flippin had its downsides, too. It was in tor-

nado alley. "Colorado and Arkansas are still included (in tornado alley) because they record many smaller tornadoes each year and have had significant tornadoes in their history. So the area marked on this map as tornado alley is based on where dangerous tornadoes and tornadoes in general are most likely going to take place in a given year. This area averages 3 tornadoes or more per year per 10,000 square miles in general." The other downside to Flippin was the humidity. It was very high being only 4 miles from Bull Shoals Lake. The climate in the South Shore is mild with a mean daily low temperature of 46 degrees and mean daily high of 71 degrees. Normal humidity is 57% at noon and 77% at midnight. The number of days with highs over 90° total 73 and the number of days with lows below 32° total 91.

Arkansas individual income tax is graduated, up to 7 percent at the \$25,000 income level. Arkansas Sales & Use tax is 6%. County and cities may also enact local option sales taxes. Real property is assessed at 20% of its fair market value, and total real estate taxes are based on this assessment. To calculate the real estate taxes in a particular city, you must add the total county millage rates to the city, school district, and fire protection district millage rates. For instance, if the property is valued at \$50,000, it is assessed at \$10,000. Total millages for Cotter would be 45.8, and total taxes on the property would be \$458.00. Why would anyone want to live in California?

Daughter Lorrie was using Sharon as a taxi and she had had about enough of that. Daughter Amy was divorced and living with them, but she was 28. You have to cut the apron strings sometime. Sister Charlene was living in California City, but she was getting loonier by the minute. Sharon checked and there were plenty of quilting guilds in Arkansas. Most of their furniture wasn't worth moving because having 3 dogs and 6 cats in the home ruined the furniture. But, you don't move to an area sight unseen and they decided to visit Derek and Mary.

Sharon was beginning to develop health problems due to all of the stress. The time to strike is when the iron is hot. The Ott's didn't have a strong sense of family like the Anderson's did. Consequently, Gary had never met Mary, DJ, Elizabeth or Joshua. Gary had waited for the opportunity to move back to the Midwest. With their fixed income, they'd probably have a higher spending power in Arkansas as well. Gas was reportedly \$0.50 a gallon cheaper. The sin taxes might be lower too and maybe cigarettes wouldn't be \$35-\$40 a carton. Got that wrong, but it's not that far to Missouri and only South Carolina is cheaper than Missouri.

The following day, on April 29, 2005, The Washington Times reported:

*Record-high energy prices thwarted consumer and business spending in the first quarter, causing growth to fall off to a 3.1 percent pace, the slowest in two years, the Commerce Department reported yesterday.*

*The oil-induced soft patch set in last month when premium crude oil prices soared to more than \$58 a barrel in New York trading, and most likely is continuing in the spring quarter, economists say.*



*Because no one can say how long oil and gasoline prices will stay elevated, it's difficult to predict how long and deep the effects will be on the economy.*

*Despite a setback in the last week, oil prices remained higher than \$50 yesterday, while average gasoline prices remained only pennies below their nationwide record of \$2.28 a gallon.*

*Worries that the slowdown may be long lasting have plagued Wall Street, where the Dow Jones Industrial Average posted another triple-digit plunge of 128 points yesterday. The Dow is down nearly 800 points from its February high, sinking further with each new report showing a loss of economic momentum.*

*Some think Wall Street is overreacting.*

That's right, and some don't. What did I tell you about the price of oil only yesterday? It was in the papers, all you had to do was open your eyes and read a little. How long could the country continue with its deficit spending before the economy totally collapsed? Now, think about it... that would be a disaster of monumental proportions. You wouldn't need Ebola or one of the calderas to erupt. What would happen to people on fixed incomes if the economy totally collapsed?

The Congressmen would all make speeches and point fingers to begin with. The fed couldn't really cut interest rates very much. The Fed had raised the interest rate on February 4, 2004 from 2.5% to 2.75%. The next meeting was scheduled for May 3, 2005 and the Fed was expected to raise the interest rate. The only other country that was expected to raise their rate was Canada from 2.5%. The London price of gold was at \$436 and New York was at \$432. (I always use the London prices in my stories.)

People with a survivalist mentality seemed to prefer to think in terms of keeping a few pre-65 US silver coins or, if they were rich enough, a little gold on hand. In the event of a major disaster, you know one of the TEOTWAWKI or TEOCAWKI situations; gold and silver were presumed to hold their value when paper money was no longer good for anything. The London price of silver was \$6.98 and the New York price of silver was \$6.87.

US coins were originally issued with the idea that every coin had an intrinsic value equal to its face value. Coins were made of precious metals; and were one to melt the coin down, one would have metal value equivalent to the coin's face value left over. This held true for all US coins of 10 cents face value and higher until 1965, when the government started issuing today's sandwich coins, which have essentially no intrinsic value. Naturally, people started hoarding the silver coins, and by 1968 it was difficult at best to find silver coins in circulation. Today these coins sell at a premium determined by their silver value. Each coin is 90% silver, and 10% alloy. One bag (\$1000 face value) of dimes, quarters, or halves contains approximately 715 ounces of content in pure silver. These coins are very popular among those that feel they are keeping silver as a

hedge against a collapse of the economy, for historically, in countries where the economy has collapsed, the money of the realm with intrinsic value has always been good bartering material.

WASHINGTON – The United States Mint is announcing today (4/19/05) that it will develop a program to manufacture 24-karat (99.99% fineness) uncirculated gold bullion investment coins in early 2006. This will mark the first time that the United States Mint will produce 24-karat gold coins. Upon completion of a successful test strike, the designs, specifications, quantities and denominations will be considered. Possible themes for the images on the 24-karat gold bullion coins will be presented by teleconference at the April 28, 2005 meeting of the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee at the United States Mint in Washington. The potential global market for 24-karat gold bullion coins is estimated at \$2.4 billion.

The problem with the 24-carat coins was that they were pure gold and easily damaged. Once damaged, they lost some of their value. A better bet would be to buy the American Eagles. They were 22-carat gold but contained exactly the amount of gold stamped on the face. A one oz. Eagle contained exactly 1 oz. of gold and the coin weighted a little more than an ounce. That's troy ounces, 12 to the pound. One troy ounce equals 1.09711 regular (avoirdupois) ounces. They came in various sizes, 1 ounce, ½ ounce, ¼ ounce and 1/10 ounce. As do Gold Eagles, Krugerrands come in four sizes: 1-ounce, ½ ounce, ¼ ounce, and 1/10 ounce. All four gold coins carry the same design. The 1-oz coin is by far the most popular but cannot always be found in large quantities. The fractional-ounce coins are sometimes difficult to find at all.

In 1994, Congress lifted the importation ban, and gold bullion Krugerrands were again offered for sale in the US. By then, however, Gold Eagles had captured the gold bullion coin market in the US, and South Africa stopped promoting Krugerrands in the US. Today, Krugerrands sell at prices below Gold Eagle prices. Since 1 ounce of gold is 1 ounce of gold, that is worth remembering.

## The Cold War – Chapter 2 – Finding Someplace Safe

Ron told Gary that it wasn't too bad of a drive to Arkansas. He knew because he went to visit Jennifer in Ft. Smith. Of course Flippin was a ways from Ft. Smith; it turned out to be about 175 miles. Derek and Mary had a pretty nice 3-bedroom home. The little house on the property wasn't bad either, but they'd lost their renter. Gary asked Derek if he could rent it for a couple of months until they got a home of their own. There was good fishing and the weather wasn't half bad when they were in Flippin. Sharon found a quilting circle and the move was on.

They returned to Palmdale and listed the house. It sold in 3 weeks and they had most of their things hauled to the dump. Amy kept Baby and Scrappy plus the yellow tabby cat name Taffy. Neither Amy nor Lorrie was too happy their mother was moving to Arkansas. Tough. The ICC governs a mover on an interstate move and they only got half gouged moving to Arkansas. Sharon and Gary moved what they had into the little house and bought new box springs and mattress for the master bedroom plus 2 Lazyboy recliners for the living room.

Gary had to start over when it came to fishing equipment. He'd used a Mitchell Garcia 300 for years and then let Udell use it one time. It came home in irreparable condition. The rod was broken in half and the reel was missing the handle and the spool. Gary had no idea what ever happened to his tackle box with the 2nd spool. Mitchell now made the 300X and they had a list price of close to \$90. There is something about getting used to a particular reel and Gary was too old to want to change. He guessed what happened, Udell used the reel on top instead of letting it hang and cranking with his left hand, as was intended. He cranked the hand right off the reel and probably dropped it in the pond. How the rod got broken or the spool went missing was a mystery.

They talked to a contractor about a new home. As far as Gary and Sharon were concerned, he could use any of a dozen tract home plans he'd built before. They just wanted a few upgrades; nothing too special just ¾" drywall throughout, solid core doors, R-19 insulation in the walls and R-40 or higher in the lid. At least the contractor knew what a furnace humidifier was. This meant no more dry air in the winter when they ran the furnace.

Gary's mother, Doris, had survived the F-5 tornado that hit Charles City on May 15, 1968 by going to the basement. The house only took a glancing hit or the basement might not have saved her. FEMA had certain recommendations about how to tornado proof a home. That was all well and good, but old Gar-Bear had written one too many fiction stories and spent too much time on the Internet doing research. The tallest forms the contractor had available were 9' forms and Gary suggested that he use them. He wanted the walls a minimum of 10" thick and a foot would make him happier.

They picked out a 2-bedroom floor plan and moved the basement staircase to one end of the living room. Both bedrooms were master bedrooms so company would be comfortable. The house, which should have cost them \$80,000, came in at \$120,000 be-

cause of the upgrades. The basement staircase was enclosed in its own walled in space and Gary had the contractor install a 3 bar blast door that they left open and concealed behind a curtain. He'd gotten that idea by watching programs on the Discovery Channel that described the Greenbrier.

To finish their new home off, Gary put in a 30kw Onan residential generator and an air filtration system for the basement. The overhead of the basement was made from pre-stressed concrete slabs. The contractor had set in the chest type freezer before he installed the final slab. Sharon's quilting room went in the basement along with a small workshop, a ¾ bathroom and the propane-fueled generator in its own little sound-proofed room. They made several trips to a Sam's Club and Wal-Mart stocking the basement pantry with a 3-month supply of the food they usually ate. Gary and Sharon still had money left but they stopped spending. There are all of those loose ends you need to take care of when you build a new home, like decorating. You can burn through a lot of money in a hurry and junk on the walls that has to be dusted.

Gary finally applied for a new driver's license now that his health was a little more stable. He shopped around until he found an old 1960 Ford F-100 ½-ton pickup that needed a little work. He had the 4-speed transmission and the engine rebuilt and added a new set of tires, belts and hoses. Sharon settled for decorating the home by hanging family photos and some of the paintings they brought with them from California, less to dust.

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The contractor had made sure the home was wheelchair friendly and Gary could now get out and take Missy for a walk every day. The old pickup had a rifle rack in the back window, but Gary just used it to hold his fishing pole. He didn't like fishing from a boat because that made fishing too complicated for an old man who hadn't used a boat since high school. He found a nice spot to go fishing up at Bulls Shoals where he could set his butt on the shore and catch enough fish to keep him happy.

During the summer of 2005, the price of gasoline slowly edged up until it was almost \$2.499 a gallon in Arkansas. The Russians had delivered the missiles to Syria, the uranium to Iran and the armored vehicles to the Palestinians. The Israelis were very unhappy come Labor Day. The Republicans in Congress had carried out their threat of using a 'nuclear option' to force their legislation and judicial appointments through. The only thing that was stalled was the Social Security bill.

In Africa they got a handle on the Marburg virus outbreak after 400 people had died. Condi Rice couldn't handle Kim Jong-il and the 6 party talks were stalled. Obviously the talks with the European Union failed because Iran had resumed their nuclear program. Just as obviously North Korea wasn't waiting for the 6-party talks to resolve the problem with their nuclear program. Word came out that Russia and China were planning another joint exercise the following year. China now had an Air Force with a group of bombers, courtesy of Russia. The Chinese had purchased two Tu-22M3 regiments – 40 air-

craft. The bombers were Tu-22M3, armed with the latest Russian Granit missiles. But China was our ally, weren't they? So was Russia according to George W. Bush.

The contractor had installed a high efficiency wood-burning unit in the fireplace space and it put out enough heat to warm the entire house. They kept their furnace set at 65° for when the fire died down at night. The new house didn't cool off that fast, but the bedrooms were cold, making for idea sleeping conditions. Gary had a new set of chores, cleaning the burner in the fireplace and taking out the trash. Plus Sharon and Gary had a very safe place to live and family just down the road.

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The only expense that they had that went up was their phone bill. Now it was 3 phone calls to California and one call to Iowa every week or more often. Speaking of which, Linda called and they were going to be in Ft. Smith visiting Jennifer and Bobbie Joe and wondered about coming to Flippin for an overnight. With no grandchildren to keep the house in a constant mess, the housekeeper Gary had hired for Sharon kept the house ready for company all of the time. She came in once a week for 4 hours. They didn't spend a lot of time in the house anyway, all of their things were in the basement and Sharon really hated to climb stairs. AmeriGlide stair lifts are built to last, with low maintenance and high reliability. They run on batteries, which are automatically re-charged. This also means that an AmeriGlide stair lift is whisper quiet and incredibly smooth. Even if there is a power outage, the lift glides smoothly to its destination. The beauty of it was Medicare paid 80% of the cost due to Gary's disability.

They also solved another problem; they could never agree on what to watch on TV. Gary wanted to watch all of the Discovery Channels and Sharon wanted to watch things like Oprah Winfrey and Montel Williams. Gary bought Sharon a 32" TV and kept his old Panasonic 27" TV. He kept his in the basement in the little living room they set up and hers was in the living room upstairs. Gary used the pillars that supported the basement ceiling to divide the basement in half. On one side of the partition were the generator, laundry room and the freezer plus a fair amount of storage space. On the other side of the partition were his little workshop, a fold down bed, a small living room and Sharon's quilting area. Gary's tired old computer had died and they shared her Dell computer. Gary installed another 512Mb and added the HDD from his computer that had gone south and transferred all of his files to her HDD. Then he got his brand new 60Gb drive out of the box, formatted it and moved his files to the new D drive.

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The next time the Trust fund made a large distribution in the fall of 2005, Sharon unloaded her Buick Skylark and put money down on a good, used 2005 Ford Explorer XLS 4x4 and it was about as plain as a vehicle could be. When Sharon wasn't looking, Gary went to the dealer and bought a backup ignition system with the computers and a new set of belts and hoses. His old Ford F-100 had all new belts and hoses so he only

put up spare ignition parts for it. In a TSHTF scenario, the problem would be getting the parts, not the mechanic.

“Hey, partner, you’re looking good,” Gary greeted Ron when they showed up in late September. “Give me your bags and we’ll put them in the spare bedroom.”

“You take one and I’ll take the other,” Ron suggested. “Lyn can get her cosmetics bag.”

“How are things back in California?” Gary asked.

“We almost can’t afford to live there anymore,” Ron replied. “Gas is at \$3.25 and climbing.”

“How are Clarence and Shirley?” Gary asked.

“Same stuff, different day,” Ron laughed. “Linda’s father finally passed away so we’ll be moving to New Mexico in a few months. What’s with the antennas?”

“I was able to buy a returned Kenwood TS-2000 from AES in Las Vegas so I finally had a chance to put in a ham radio. I did that instead of replacing my computer when it died. One of the antennas is VHF/UHF and the other is HF.”

“Gar-Bear without a computer? I don’t believe it,” Ron responded.

“I had a spare 60Gb drive that I installed in Sharon’s and we share hers.”

“Your house is nice and tidy, how do you keep it so clean?”

“We mostly live in the basement, partner. I’m either up at Bull Shoals fishing or down in the basement. We have a housekeeper come in and clean once a week but with no grandchildren it’s a lot easier to keep it clean.”

“Got anything to drink?”

“Lipton iced tea and a bottle of Sweet and Low.”

“Perfect.”

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They’d done NY Strips and Patti potatoes on the grill and spent the evening visiting. Gary had given Ron the grand tour of their basement and Ron laughed and said that it was just like what he’d imagined Gary would always build if he ever got the chance. He wanted to see Gary’s new gun collection and was surprised to learn that Gary hadn’t bought a single gun since moving to Arkansas. Gary explained that he wanted a Super

Match M1A but couldn't afford it and the scope that went with it. Ron suggested that Gary just buy a FAL rifle.

"That's what Derek keeps telling me partner," Gary smiled. "I just can't make up my mind."

"Be practical, Gary, even with a scope you can't shoot a rifle 600-yards. Why not buy the FAL and a few of the cheap magazines and be done with it?"

"You can own a machine gun in Arkansas, Ron, but they have to be registered with the feds and the Arkansas Secretary of State. I haven't decided what I want to do. But for the price of a Super Match I suppose I could buy a FAL and a Mini-14 for Sharon."

"Do you really need assault rifles?"

"Do you still watch the news?"

"Why?"

"The Cold War isn't over, it has just changed character. Iran and Korea are nuclear powers and North Korea admits it although Iran denies it. Russia and China are very cozy since last winter when they held joint maneuvers together. I hear that they're planning the same thing for 2006. Russia sold 40 of those Backfire C bombers to the Chinese. Syria has missiles now and the Palestinians have armored vehicles. The economy is in the toilet and the price of gas has gone up 50 cents in Arkansas."

"Seventy-five cents in California, but California is always the highest priced gas in the country," Ron pointed out.

"We're tied up in that occupation of Iraq and Derek is leaving next month to go over there for at least a year. Bush can't get the other 4 members of the talks with Korea to support a resolution in the UN. And even if he could, what good would it do? South Korea wants the US out of their country. The minute we pull out, North Korea will push over the DMZ and invade. Since they have a nuclear weapons program, they can threaten Russia and China to mind their own business."

The United States today is the only truly global power. Its military reach extends to every corner of the world. Its economic achievements fuel international trade and industry. Its political and cultural traditions and values appeal to people around the world. And while no one questions America's paramount position, many raise the issue of how the United States is trying to transform this unique power into sustainable influence.

September 11th may have marked the end of the age of geopolitics, defined by containment and balance of power. It also signaled the advent of a new age – the era of global politics, primarily focused on global threats. It has become a demarcation point for US foreign policy, now rooted in the two new phenomena of the times, catastrophic

terrorism and American unipolar power. Although America's pre-eminence began with the collapse of the Soviet Union over a decade ago, until Nine-eleven the United States did not see itself as a global policeman. Nine-eleven made it clear the United States had enemies capable and willing to inflict substantial damage to its interests at home and abroad.

These new threats to US and global security necessitate a rethinking of the organizing principles of international order, say analysts. But America's new assertiveness in setting standards, determining threats and using force many find harmful to the fabric of the international community and political partnerships. This new preventive doctrine negates the sovereignty of other nations by insisting on the right of the US to interdict other nations in advance of an act of aggression. The doctrine announced by the US is based on perception, possibilities, something that might happen or could happen. It announces the right of America to take up arms against another.

States have never abandoned the right of preemption, nor have proponents of multilateralism always acted under the framework of the United Nations. It is only recently that anyone has claimed the United Nations was the sole legitimator of international action. European states did not disagree several years ago when the United States and NATO acted in Kosovo without a UN sanction. Theorists argue that if there is a superpower that throws its weight around, the result will be an incentive for other powers to gather together to check the hegemon. China is a rising power, and there is at least the possibility of Russia making some sort of resurgence. To avert such developments, US policies could go beyond an almost exclusive focus on achieving security through force.

Among rogue states, those most aggressively seeking to acquire or develop WMD and their means of delivery are Iran and North Korea, followed by Libya and Syria. It is also the case that these states are among those the US identifies as state sponsors of terrorism. The Bush Doctrine aims not just to prevent the spread of WMD, but also to "roll back" and ultimately eliminate such weapons from the arsenals of rogue states, and ensure that the terrorist groups they sponsor do not acquire weapons of mass destruction.

In 2001 the US State Department identified seven countries – Cuba, North Korea, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, and Syria – as sponsors of international terrorism. Prior to 2003 Iraq was a sponsor of anti-Israel terrorism. Among the terrorist groups that maintained offices in Baghdad are the Palestine Liberation Front and the Abu Nidal Organization. Iraq also supported the Mujahedin-e-Khalq's terrorism against Iran.

The primary target of Iranian-sponsored terrorism is peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. Iran provides the terrorist groups Hezbollah, HAMAS, the Palestine Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command with weapons, funding, training, logistics, and safe haven. Iran is encouraging these groups to increase terrorist attacks on Israeli civilians. Iran also supports terrorist groups operating against Algeria and Turkey and permits Uzbek terrorists to broadcast over Iranian radio. Syria is another country that supports terrorist groups opposed to Israel. Syria gives safe haven and support to Fatah-the-Intifada, the Popular Front for the



Liberation of Palestine, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, HAMAS, and the Palestine Islamic Jihad. Damascus serves as the primary transit point for weapons from Iran to Hezbollah terrorists in Lebanon.

Sudan has expelled some terrorists, but it continues to harbor associates of the Afghanistan-based al Qaeda terrorist organization, led by Osama bin Laden. Sudan also protects terrorists from the Egyptian group, al-Gama'a al-Islamiyya, the Egyptian Islamic Jihad, the Palestine Islamic Jihad, and HAMAS. Libya continues to maintain links to terrorist groups like the Palestine Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command. Of the other state sponsors, North Korea is reported to have sold weapons to Philippine terrorists. And Cuba provides safe haven for Basque ETA terrorists. Cuba also has longstanding ties to Colombian terrorist groups.

In his State of the Union speech in January 2002, President Bush said, *We'll be deliberate, yet time is not on our side. I will not wait on events, while dangers gather. I will not stand by, as peril draws closer and closer. The United States of America will not permit the world's most dangerous regimes to threaten us with the world's most destructive weapons.*

In a major speech defining the Bush Doctrine delivered on 01 June 2002 at West Point, Bush placed his ideas in historical context: *For much of the last century, America's defense relied on the cold-war doctrines of deterrence and containment. In some cases, those strategies still apply. But new threats also require new thinking. Deterrence – the promise of massive retaliation against nations – means nothing against shadowy terrorist networks with no nation or citizen to defend. ... Containment is not possible when unbalanced dictators with weapons of mass destruction can deliver those weapons or missiles or secretly provide them to terrorist allies. ... We cannot defend America and our friends by hoping for the best. We cannot put our faith in the word of tyrants, who solemnly sign non-proliferation treaties, and then systematically break them. ... If we wait for threats to fully materialize, we will have waited too long. ... [T]he war on terror will not be won on the defensive. We must take the battle to the enemy, disrupt his plans, and confront the worst threats before they emerge. In the world we have entered, the only path to safety is the path of action. And this nation will act.*

In a prime time news conference on October 11, 2001, President Bush called Afghanistan the *first battle in the war of the 21st century. ... How long will this last? This particular battlefield will last as long as it takes to bring al Qaeda to justice. It may happen tomorrow; it may happen a month from now; it may take a year or two. Right...*

Norman Podhoretz argues that America should militarize the clash of civilizations, as it is George W. Bush's mission "to fight World War IV – the war against militant Islam." Podhoretz credits Eliot Cohen with the phrase "World War IV." Podhoretz suggests that after September 11th, "having previously been unsure as to why he should have been chosen to become President of the United States, George W. Bush now knew that the God to whom, as a born-again Christian, he had earlier committed himself had put him

in the Oval Office for a purpose. He had put him there to lead a war against the evil of terrorism.”

In March 2002, Bill Kristol, editor of *The Weekly Standard*, and President of The Project for a New American Century, declared that, “for the US, the world really changed on September 11. ... We are no longer prepared to rely mainly on negotiations, trade pressures, arms control regimes and international institutions in order to solve critical world problems. The Israeli operation against the Iraqi nuclear reactor in Osirak is our new paradigm. Time is not on our side. We need to act soon, act preemptively, and act alone if necessary. Osirak is now the model of how foreign policy has to be conducted,” said Kristol. “Indeed, today the US is committed to forcing regime change in Iran, Iraq, and North Korea,” continued Kristol. “We will be much more aggressive in pursuing this goal; no longer are we content to wait for history to work things through. Unfortunately, Europe does not yet seem to understand our new world. They wish to return to pre-September 2001 rules.”

James Woolsey stated on 02 April 2003 at a speech at UCLA that the war on Iraq is the opening of a much-to-be-desired “Fourth World War” and that the governments of Iran and Syria are “America’s enemies” in this war. Woolsey stated that, “We are fighting “World War IV, a war that will last longer than World Wars I or II. As we move toward a new Middle East,” Woolsey said, “We will make a lot of people very nervous,” including Egypt and Saudi Arabia. “We want you nervous,” said Woolsey. “We want you to realize that now, for the fourth time in 100 years, this country and its allies are on the march and that we are on the side of those whom you - the Mubaraks, the Saudi Royal family - most fear. We’re on the side of your own people.” A few days later, Woolsey suggested that, “In World War IV, as was true in WW III, we must understand that different enemies require different tactics. South Korea in 1950 could only be saved by American military power, but Poland in the ‘80s required a very different touch. Freedom in Iran may well arrive in Polish guise.”

Vice President Dick Cheney said on 13 May 2003 that, *Clearly, we are locked in the kind of the struggle that will continue for a good many years, that calls upon the very best in the United States military. ... The only way to deal with this threat ultimately is to destroy it. There’s no treaty can solve this problem. There’s no peace agreement, no policy of containment or deterrence that works to deal with this threat. We have to go find the terrorists. ... The only sure way to security and stability and the protection of our people and those of our friends and allies is to go eliminate the terrorists before they can launch any more attacks. And this President is absolutely bound and determined to do that.*

The US has adopted a forward strategy of freedom in the Middle East. President George W. Bush announced the policy on 06 November 2003, at a twentieth anniversary celebration of the National Endowment for Democracy. He celebrated the success of countries from Eastern Europe to Latin America, to parts of Asia and Africa that have moved from dictatorship to democracy. *In June of 1982, President Ronald Reagan spoke at Westminster Palace and declared the turning point had arrived in history. He*

*argued that Soviet Communism had failed, precisely because it did not respect its own people. ... But, President Bush said, In many nations of the Middle East, countries of great strategic importance, democracy has not yet taken root ... The questions arise: Are the people of the Middle East somehow beyond the reach of liberty? Are millions of men and women and children condemned by history or culture to live in despotism? Are they alone never to know freedom and never even to have a choice in the matter? I for one do not believe it. I believe every person has the ability and the right to be free. ... The advance of freedom is the calling of our time.*

President George W. Bush says, the greatest security for the US and for all countries comes from the advance of human freedom: *... because free nations do not support terror. Free nations do not attack their neighbors. Free nations do not threaten the world with weapons of mass terror. Americans believe that freedom is the deepest hope and need of every human heart. And I believe that freedom is the right of every person. And I believe that freedom is the future of every nation. The cause of freedom led the United States and a coalition of nations to liberate Iraq. Now, says Mr. Bush, the coalition is working to help the Iraqi people build a democratic country that is at peace with its neighbors – an Iraq free of oppression, weapons of mass destruction, and terrorism.*

The great democratic movement got underway in the 1970s. Portugal, Spain, and Greece held free elections. By the 1980s, there were new democracies in Latin America, and free institutions were spreading in South Korea, Taiwan, and elsewhere in Asia. By the end of 1989, every Communist dictatorship in central Europe had collapsed. In 1990, the South African government released Nelson Mandela from prison; four years later, he was elected President. In 1991, the Soviet Union broke up, and many of its newly independent republics began moving toward democracy.

It's not a new idea but it is a new doctrine in practice. It is a change from decades of the practice of foreign policy in the United States where, because of the Cold War and the conflict with the Soviet Union, the US pushed democracy around the world depending upon how it affected the power struggle with the Soviet Union, which meant that the US would be friends with a dictator if that dictator was an enemy of the Soviet Union. The Administration is hoping that if the US can successfully establish a democracy in Iraq that will have a demonstration effect. The people in the next-door countries who are in similar circumstances would feel that they deserve the same kind of thing. When there is local ferment and pressure, the US can come in and insist that the government not fire on crowds. This would begin the movement internally in all of these countries towards democracy.

Unhinged from the containment of Soviet power, the sources of US unilateralism, and its military manifestation of "preemption", are rooted in the logic of unipolarism.

Leaders in countries ranging from China, Russia and Iran to many European capitals share deep anxieties about the emergence of the United States as a "benevolent hegemon" – seeing a "rogue superpower" instead. Short of joining forces formally, the outlines of a counter-veiling bloc are seen in the convergence of threat perceptions.

Russia is disquieted by the post-September 11th American incursions into traditional Caucasus-Central Asian security zone. China remains uneasy over the Korean Peninsula and Taiwan, while fixating on a "new Silk Road" allowing unfettered access to the Middle East and Eurasia. The Islamic Republic of Iran is emerging, as a frontline state in their global lineup against US hegemony is prevalent in the Chinese and Russian foreign-policy community.

I didn't write that, it came from Global Security. What happened to World War III? What's all this talk about World War IV? We had World War III; we just called it by a different name, the Cold War.

Hegemon: One that exercises hegemony.

Hegemony: The predominant influence, as of a state, region, or group, over another or others.

When did the US ask to be the World's policeman? Did the Congress or the American people vote on becoming the World's policeman? The United States became the de facto World policeman when it won the Cold War. Did we really win the Cold War or has it just changed character until World War IV could come along? IF this country won the Cold War then it was all Ronald Reagan's fault. He's the President who bankrupted the Soviet Union with his 600-ship Navy. Hard questions, aren't they? What was our great prize for winning the Cold War? The military didn't seem to think we'd won anything. They went ahead with their plans for the Future Combat Systems.

Search the web with the term 'Hegemon'. You won't like what you find. Freedom of speech should be responsible, not some of the crap you'll find about our President. If you were the President of the United States of America on September 12, 2001, what would you have done? Apologize to Osama bin Laden for making him angry at the United States? Had it happened on September 11, 2000 instead of 2001, what would Clinton have done? He'd already passed on 3 offers made by the Sudan to take Osama bin Laden into custody.

Do you remember what Albert Einstein said? *I do not know with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones.* Close but no cigar, World War IV would be fought with nuclear weapons and World War V would be fought with sticks and stones. The only question that remained to be decided was who would win World War IV? The answer should be obvious; there wouldn't be any winners, only losers.

## The Cold War – Chapter 3 – The Slippery Slope

Wars are socially constructed, as are their names. The war known in some circles as the Civil War or the War Between the States is also known in other circles as the War of Northern Aggression.

The Oxford English Dictionary reports that the phrase “world war” was first noted in use in the 8 April 1909 edition of the Westminster Gazette.

The conflict that erupted in August 1914, and that ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, was known at the time simply as the Great War. In the United States, it was officially designated The World War. On October 7, 1919, War Department General Orders No. 115 directed: “The war against the Central Powers of Europe, in which the United States has taken part, will hereafter be designated in all official communications and publications as ‘The World War.’” It was also called “The War to End All Wars,” but this optimism proved unjustified. Some would suggest that this War was just the first phase of the Second 30 Years War, spanning the period 1914 - 1945.

The term “First World War” was used in 1920 by Lt-Col à Court Repington, in his book *The First World War 1914-18*.

The phrase “World War 2” was first noted in use in Manchester Guardian on 18 February 1919. It seems that World Wars I & II were named together for the first time by Time magazine on 11 September 1938.

On 27 April 1942 a Gallup Poll indicated that people preferred the term World War II for the ongoing global war. During the war, many Americans also called it as “The War in Europe,” or simply, “The War.” Noting that the term “World War II” had been used in at least seven public laws to designate this period of hostilities, and that analysis of publications and radio programs indicates that this term had been accepted by common usage, President Truman officially named the war in September 1945.

During the Cold War the term “World War III” was widely used to denote the anticipated and dreaded final conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union [what Herman Kahn termed “an insensate wargasm”] that would shatter modern civilization, if not destroy life on Earth.

Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World* is one of the most influential and powerful “dystopian” (implying “nightmare world”) fictions alongside H.G. Wells’ *The Time Machine* and George Orwell’s *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. The Huxley’s book the Nine Years’ War led to almost total destruction. After a severe economic crisis the world submitted to the World Controllers who took over and redefined the social order. This global disaster made the rulers of civilization so nervous that they decided that individual freedoms must be sacrificed to communal well-being; contentment is enforced at all costs. “People still went on talking about truth and beauty as though they were the sovereign goods. Right up to the time of the Nine Years’ War. That made them change their tune all right. What’s the

point of truth or beauty or knowledge when the anthrax bombs are popping all around you?" The Nine Years War started in 141 AF [After Ford]. American automobile manufacturer Henry Ford (1863-1947) defines the era, with dates computed A.F., or After Ford, starting with the year his Model-T car was first produced (1913). This would make the year 141 After Ford the year 2057. The Nine Years War, which ushered in the era of Ford, ensured stability through dictatorship. Huxley's Nine Year's War should not be confused with the Nine Year's War of 1688-1697, also known as the War of the League of Augsburg or the War of the Grand Alliance.

US military operations initiated post-September 11 have largely been identified by the Bush Administration, the Department of Defense, and the service branches as being in support of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) is the name assigned by the military to operations conducted in support of the Global War on Terrorism. The various campaigns of the war on terrorism tend to be described as sub-operations of Operation Enduring Freedom. For instance, operations in Afghanistan are identified as Operation Enduring Freedom – Afghanistan (OEF–A), and operations in the Philippines are identified as Operation Enduring Freedom – Philippines (OEF–P). During the build-up of military forces prior to the initiation of combat operations against Iraq in March 2003, deployments were announced as being in support of OEF or the Global War on Terrorism.

On 19 September 2002 Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told the Senate Armed Services Committee that Iraq was not separate from the global war on terrorism, but rather it is part of it. The secretary and Air Force General Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, returned to Capitol Hill for the second time in two days to discuss the Bush administration's position on Iraq. Rumsfeld said stopping rogue states from developing and using weapons of mass destruction is a key aspect of the global war on terrorism. "We can fight the various elements of the global war on terror simultaneously," he said.

On 17 September 2003 President George W. Bush submitted a proposal for \$87 billion in supplemental appropriations to Congress for funding the War on Terrorism. The request would provide critical funds for military and intelligence operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries, as well as resources for the reconstruction and economic development of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Eliot A. Cohen, writing in the Wall Street Journal on November 20, 2001, suggested, "World War IV - Let's call this conflict what it is." This theme has continued among the strongest proponents of the War, however it is named.

Global Security again. I disagree with Cohen, if we didn't have a World War III, how could the Global War on Terror be World War IV? The GWOT was just a continuation of the Cold War only this time they were shooting real bullets instead of threatening each other. What was the Gulf War in 1991, chopped liver? It was a shooting war and people died. It involved several nations so why wasn't it World War III? There are lots of questions, but don't ask me for the answers. All I know is that I'm getting darned tired of my

boy going off to fight another war. I'm beginning to think that the plan is to just keep sending him to wars until someone kills him off.

Ron and Linda had to leave and Gary couldn't decide what to do about a rifle. He settled on the Super Match rifle, deferring the purchase, and bought a Mini-14 for Sharon. Sharon didn't really need a handgun and if she did, she could use the .32 auto. Gary bought a PT1911, a Mini-14 and 590A1. The Onan 30000 Res produced 125 amps at 240v on Propane fuel. It used anywhere from 1.9gph to 4.2gph depending on whether it was running at 25% power or 100% power. The largest propane tank he could get the dealer to put in was a 1,100-gallon tank. So, they bought their own 3,300-gallon tank

Flippin was a nice little town.

Water - There is an unlimited supply of water since the water comes from Bull Shoals Lake. Flippin's water system can pump more than a half million gallons a day and has storage of 400,000 gallons. Flippin's rural water rates are \$12.95 for the first 2,000 gallons plus \$3.32 for any additional part of 1,000 gallons. Sewage treatment capacity is a half million gallons/day. Rates are \$9 for the first 2,000 gallons plus \$1 for an additional part of 1,000 gallons. For more water information, call City Hall at 870-453-8300.

Trash – Trash pickup service is provided to commercial customers by the company, which receives the bid for city trash pickup. Residential pickup charges are \$7.45 per month. For more information, call City Hall, 870-453-8300.

Cable TV – Cable television service is by Cox Communications, 870-425-3161.

Electricity – Entergy Corporation serves the Flippin area with transmission voltages of 161,000 volts. City primary voltages are 13,800 volts. Call 800-368-3749.

Gas – Arkansas Western Gas provides natural gas service with 1,000 BTUs of heat value. Call 870-449-6215.

Internet – NATCO Technologies offers DSL & ISDN as well as 56K Internet access. Call 1-800-775-6685.

Propane – Pioneer Propane sells propane for the area. Call 870-427-3271.

Those 3,000-gallons of propane could last for as long as 52 days, depending upon usage. But, as you can see, Flippin also had natural gas. Gar-Bear had written about how to set one of those generators up to take both natural gas and propane, but he couldn't remember which story explained the process. The generator came with everything for either and all a person had to do was switch it over when they went to propane.

Conversion Procedure (Natural Gas to LP Vapor): This unit was manufactured to operate on Natural Gas as it leaves our factory. To convert to LP Vapor, after disconnecting both battery leads, follow these instructions:

1. Remove both doors
2. Remove the top panel.
3. Remove the front housing.
4. Remove the cap from the “LP” marked outlet on the Brass Tee located on the upper right side of the Gas Regulator.
5. Unscrew the fuel line that leads to the carburetor from the “NG” side of the tee and reinstall the hose to the “LP” side.
6. Install the cap removed in step 4 on to the outlet marked “NG”.
7. Be sure that no leaks exist in any connection by using thread sealant to seal. Do not use excessive amounts of thread sealant taking care to keep it from entering the gas lines.
8. Test for leaks.
9. Reinstall the front housing.
10. Reinstall the top panel.
11. Reinstall both doors.
12. Stop holding your breath.

Easy enough to do in the daylight, but what would it be like using a flashlight? It was easier just to insert a valve and use a line from both sides of the Brass Tee to the Valve. You also had to put a valve in front of the Brass Tee to switch the source of the gas. It was harder to describe than it was for the installer to do. If there was one thing you learned when you got old, it was your limitations. With only the inaccurate Mini-14, Gary, he didn't feel bad buying surplus ammo.

Eric the Ammoman had an ad: 7.62 NATO US Military Lake City 7.62x51 Packed Loose – Brand New Ammo Made at the Military Arsenal Manufactured in 2004 \$239-1,000 rounds delivered. He also had 5.56 Lake City M855 Green Tip 5.56062 Grain - Steel Penetrator - Packed Loose 1000 Rounds per case \$399-2000 rounds delivered. .45 Federal 230gr. FMJ Red Box American Eagle \$229-1,000 rounds (one sealed case). Man is this dated...

He guessed that that would cover Christmas very well. The Mini-14 only needed a single modification, the barrel threaded. “Aint no way,” he heard, “I'll order you a new threaded barrel. Gary had the muzzle brake unsoldered and the barrel threaded. The Mini-14 got a M4-FA after a wait of 8 months. If anyone got close enough to require Gary to use the PT1911, a suppressor wasn't needed. His last preparation was to get Rambo I and Rambo III sharpened, top and bottom, to a shaving edge.

Thanksgiving 2005...

“Where's the turkey?”

“I thought since it was just the two of us we have game hens,” Sharon replied.

“Oh yeah? How many did you fix?”



“One, that’s enough for the two of us,” she replied.

“Stuffing?”

“Stovetop with mashed potatoes and gravy.”

“It’s so quiet I can almost hear myself think,” Gary smiled. “I dearly love my grandchildren, but only when they are at home instead of here. Is the freezer full?”

“To the top,” Sharon replied.

“I’ve got to order a load or two of firewood and we should go to Sam’s Club while we have the money,” Gary suggested.

“Gary, we just went last month and stocked up for the quarter,” Sharon disagreed.

“I don’t like the news, Sharon. Gas is \$2.749 a gallon and the price of gold went over \$500 on the London market yesterday. I called Texaco and told them we needed a 300-gallon gas tank on a stand. I think that’s the only way we’re going to be able to keep on driving.”

“Linda called and they’ve sold their house and are building one in Cedar Hill.”

“How’s Ron doing?” Gary asked.

“They had to do an angioplasty, but aside from his leg hurting he’s ok.”

“What about John, Brenda and Kevin?”

“They stayed in California. They have a new project for Brenda and John to guard since JAG had its last season. I guess that Kevin is just lying around at John’s apartment. Linda thinks that Brenda is going to move back to Ft. Smith.”

“If she does that, Jennifer and she can always bug out to here if TSHTF,” Gary suggested.

“Linda gave me Jennifer’s number in case of emergency.”

“That might come in handy,” Gary replied.

“Do you really think that there’s going to be trouble?”

“We’re already in trouble with the economy and the price of gas. Do I think that the other countries will move against the US? I have no idea, but Russia and China aren’t very happy with us over North Korea. Plus the French and the Germans are getting more vo-

cal over Iraq every day. The Israelis are mad at the US because we didn't block the sales of missiles to Syria, armor to the Palestinians and enriched uranium to the Iranians. And, lest I forget, the North Koreans flew another test missile over Japan and they protested to the UN."

"What about that anti-missile system?" she asked.

"The system is called THAAD. THAAD is scheduled for deployment in 2011. The first intercept attempt of the THAAD system will take place in late 2004 or 2005. In July 2004 THAAD testing moved from White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico to the Pacific Missile Range for block 6 and 8 flight tests. Past failures hampered THAAD's test schedule.

"The Theater High-Altitude Area Defense [THAAD] system will provide extended coverage for a greater diversity and dispersion of forces and the capability to protect population centers," he continued, "But the principal additional capability provided by this system is the ability to deal with longer-range theater missile threats as they begin to emerge. THAAD also reduces the number of missiles that the lower-tier systems must engage and provides a shoot-look-shoot capability-the ability to engage incoming missiles more efficiently. With a range of over 200 km and a maximum altitude of 150 km, THAAD is designed to intercept ballistic missiles at long ranges above the atmosphere. The sites would also be protected with lower and medium tier defensive shield systems such as the Patriot PAC-3 which intercepts hostile incoming missiles at 20 to 100 times lower altitudes."

"Is that what it has come to, hiding behind a missile shield?" Sharon asked.

"Maybe someday, but at the moment, we don't even have that. When was the last time you saw a Patriot PAC-3 battery in anybody's neighborhood? The overall procurement objective of 1,159 PAC-3 missiles remains unchanged. The larger purchases in FY-03 and FY-04 may be offset by lower production in FY-08 and FY-09. Instead of buying 216 missiles in each of those years, DOD would receive 184 units annually. As of a year ago there were no major issues during the Patriot PAC-3 Missile Segment Enhancement preliminary design review, which will be followed by one more review, the critical design review, was completed late this past summer."

"What are they doing with them?" Sharon asked.

"I suppose a lot of them went to the Middle East, but some of them may be protecting military bases here in the US."

"If I understand you right, you're expecting trouble before the THAAD missiles are in place?" Sharon asked.

"It's possible, Sharon. What if the Russians and Chinese use one of those joint maneuver exercises to start a war?"

“What would they have to gain? If they use the nuclear option, we’ll wipe them out and if they don’t we can kick their butts.”

“The US can barely support the operation in Iraq,” Gary replied. “I think that they could start a conventional war and get away with it. The only thing the US has going for it is the most powerful Navy in the world. Don’t kid yourself about those Russian fighters and Russian pilots, they’re well trained and their only problem is their tactical approach. They’ve always controlled their fighters from the ground. I’ve always wondered what would happen if they changed their policy and fought like we do. I think that the last time we went head to head with Russian pilots was in Vietnam. They shot down a lot of our planes.”

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The POWs and defectors also told stories about Soviet jet pilots in dogfights against the Americans over North Vietnam’s skies. The Soviet pilots, as well as the North Koreans, always flew warplanes bearing North Vietnam colors. Rumors, later confirmed, ran that the Americans shot down some Soviet pilots’ jets and they landed safely by parachutes on the ground. The Soviet pilots never wore insignias or marks to tell that they were from the Soviet Union. They were immediately arrested and were beaten to pulp by the militiamen in the area, most of whom didn’t understand Russian. Some who could tell that the downed pilots were Russians usually beat them more brutally as if they had mistaken them for the Americans. From 1964 to 1973, 6,359 Soviet generals and other officers “visited” Vietnam. Soviet-guided surface-to-air missile (SAM) regiments were deployed to encounter US warplanes. Thirteen Soviet servicemen were lost in action during these years. In Indochina the US lost almost 60,000 men and 8,612 aircraft. Somehow the Cold War doesn’t sound so cold does it?

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The Russian military studied the first Gulf War very carefully and as a result modified the combat procedures, reducing their reliance on ground forces and emphasizing the use of air power. While the Russian air force might have been in disarray in 2000 that was changing very rapidly. The only problem was money to buy the aircraft. The improving Russian economy has now made that possible. Predictions that if the US went up against Russian airframes in the future they would learn that they were flying against Chinese pilots were correct at the time, but now dated.

Gary had every right to be worried about the Russians and the Chinese. The Chinese could supply massive numbers of ground troops but they lacked a transport system. The Russians built some of the best aircraft in the world and they were mainly designed to counter threats they perceived the US military aviation represented. They didn’t have the Raptor, but neither did the Americans in any great number. The \$130 million plane turned out to cost twice as much. The American plan called for a limited number of F-22’s and a far larger number of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. The US wanted 339 F-22’s

but they were already limited to around 183 because Congress wouldn't increase their airplane budget. The Air Force traded off F-35's to get the Raptors they couldn't afford. In simulated combat tests, a single F-22 had taken out an attacking force of 10 F15-C's. In November of 2004, an F-22 crashed at Nellis AFB. The cause of the crash was undetermined but the pilot ejected safely.

Apparently Sharon was worried too. She had also caved in on the question of the food and in early December, had added a full six-month supply of food from Sam's Club. During December Gary called Ron to see how he was feeling and how their house was coming. Ron had more or less duplicated their home but had built a 5-bedroom 2-story affair. His leg was healed and he was feeling marginally better. Robert and he had re-loaded all of his empty brass and he'd made some purchases. Ron bought a SA-58 FAL rifle, ammo and magazines. He'd contacted the people in Gonzales, Texas and bought the package deal plus extra KI and a CD V-717.

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"How are Ron and Linda?"

"Ron's healed up and the contractor has their house sealed in. It will be another month, minimum, before they can move in. Brenda did move back to Ft. Smith and I told him to send Jennifer and Brenda over here if TSHTF. He bought Survey Meters from Radmeters4U. Maybe we should do the same. You can probably figure \$1,000 by the time we buy the package deal, a CD V-717 and extra Potassium Iodide. Maybe I could buy the extra Potassium from Frugal, but we need enough for at least a dozen people."

"You sound really worried."

"It's a question of when, not if, Sharon. Do you really think the other countries will wait around while we totally update our military? Once we field the THAAD System and have the F-35's tested and built, there won't be a country in the world that can hurt the US without turning to the nuclear option."

"Damon called."

"Did he want me to call back?"

"No, he just said to tell you that he got an 80% service connected disability and Social Security classified him as 100% disabled. Where were you anyway? It's too cold to go fishing."

"I was at the gun store ordering ammo for the shotgun."

"What did you order?"

“Brenneke 3” Black Magic slugs and Remington 3” Magnum Express 15 pellet 00 buck-shot. I can’t shoot a shotgun worth a dang so I just bought a couple of boxes of #6 shot if I have to use it for hunting. The only weapon missing from our arsenal is a Springfield Armory Super Match and .22 rifle and ammo. We should have bought 2 freezers instead of one, you know.”

“We don’t eat enough meat to justify a second freezer.”

“I was just trying to plan ahead.”

“Could we get another chest type freezer in the basement?”

“If they took it down the stairs a certain way, we could. The door is 36” and the freezer is less than 30” deep. We can vacuum pack the meat and it will hold about twice as long. We don’t have to buy it all at once.”

“I was planning on buying a long-arm quilting machine.”

“Then buy it first and if there’s money left over, buy the freezer. You ought to stock up on extra backing and quilting supplies while you’re at it.”

The first of the year is a good time for the Trust fund. There are several months where the income is on the order of \$3,000. Sharon got her Pfaff long-arm quilting machine and Gary bought a used Winchester model 9422 and an assortment of ammo. They also bought another Sears 25 ft<sup>3</sup> chest type freezer. Unless you raise your own beef, it isn’t any cheaper to buy a whole steer and have it butchered. If you watch the sales at Sam’s Club and only buy what they have on sale, you can stock a freezer in a reasonable amount of time and if you vacuum pack the meat, it will hold longer. The same goes for the frozen vegetables.

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Russia and China held the joint maneuvers but nothing came of it, this time. Under appropriate operating conditions, the neutrons given off by fission reactions can “breed” more fuel from otherwise non-fissionable isotopes. The most common breeding reaction is that of plutonium-239 from non-fissionable uranium-238. The term “fast breeder” refers to the types of configurations, which can actually produce more fissionable fuel than they use, such as the LMFBR. This scenario is possible because the non-fissionable uranium-238 is 140 times more abundant than the fissionable U-235 and can be efficiently converted into Pu-239 by the neutrons from a fission chain reaction. France has made the largest implementation of breeder reactors with its large Super-Phénix reactor and an intermediate scale reactor (BN-600) on the Caspian Sea for electric power and desalinization.

Brushing aside US concerns, the (Russian) government has indicated that it plans to continue building new nuclear reactors in Iran like one that American officials have re-

peatedly warned could be used to develop nuclear weapons. Russia's assistance in building a nuclear plant in the city of Bushehr, near the Persian Gulf, has been a nagging irritant in relations with the United States for years. It produced the sourest note in otherwise friendly meetings between Presidents George W. Bush and Vladimir Putin here in May (2002).

The Iranian Revolutionary Guards carried out a series of military maneuvers to test Shahab 3 rockets, as part of a plan that the government devised in order to respond to any possible threat. In return, the Israeli media said that Israel also did some new tests on missiles, in order to respond to any attack from the Iranian Shahab 3 and 4 rockets. A military analyst in Ha'aretz said that Iran's intention is to promote its security conditions and ameliorate the morale of its people. He also said that Iran does not need such missiles in order to target Israel, because its weapons are long enough in Lebanon and Syria, and Iran is capable of targeting military civilian bases through these countries deep inside the Hebrew state.

A European mediator representing the countries involved (France, Britain and Germany), is expected to travel to Tehran; perhaps he could prohibit the sanctions in return for restraining the Iranian state with the conditions of the IAEA. On the other hand, Tony Blair's government is trying to diminish the fears from Sharon's plans of attacking the Iranian nuclear reactors, which will only increase animosity against Israel and the US, and weaken the hope of achieving a historical reconciliation through direct negotiations. According to the British, the continuation of the Israeli policies of oppressing the Palestinians, in addition to the occupation of Iraq and the destruction of the Iranian nuclear reactors, will destroy the chances for peace. Whoever knows Sharon's history, would see that Sharon does not cooperate with his neighbors, and bases his programs on military might and the possession of a nuclear arsenal.

## The Cold War – Chapter 4 – Another Year of Fear

### The Origin of Intelligent Design

It's an idea with a history as illustrious as its mere mention today can be contentious: that the order and complexity of the natural world are evidence of supernatural design. So-called natural theology is a doctrine that can be traced back to the Bible and that shaped the thinking of such early Christian philosophers as Thomas Aquinas.

One of the influential proponents of the notion that the existence of God could be understood by studying His creation was English philosopher John Ray (1628-1705). Ray's cataloguing of mammals, birds, fish, insects and plants inspired subsequent naturalists to collect and classify organisms as a reflection of the divine order of creation.

"There is for a free man no occupation more worthy and delightful," wrote Ray, "Than to contemplate the beauteous works of nature and honour the infinite wisdom and goodness of God."

Ray's systems brought order to the chaotic study of nature. His insight that fossils were once living organisms overturned popular hypotheses of his time (that they were, for example, *lusi naturae* or mere games of nature). And, by encouraging naturalists to look at an organism's form in relation to its function, he paved the way for studies of adaptation.

A century later, English theologian William Paley (1743-1805) elaborated on these concepts in his "Evidences of the Existence and Attributes of the Deity, Collected from the Appearances of Nature." Using his famous analogy of a watchmaker, Paley inferred the existence of a creative god:

"In crossing a heath, suppose I pitched my foot against a stone, and were asked how the stone came to be there: I might possibly answer, that for any thing I know to the contrary, it had lain there forever... But suppose I had found a watch upon the ground, and it should be inquired how the watch happened to be in that place; ... When we come to inspect the watch, we perceive (what we could not discover in the stone) that its several parts are framed and put together for a purpose ... This mechanism being observed ... the inference, we think, is inevitable, that the watch must have had a maker ... who comprehended its construction, and designed its use."

Just as the watch's complexity provides evidence of a watchmaker, Paley reasoned, so the natural world's complexity provides evidence of a world maker.

This "argument from design" prevailed until Charles Darwin published his "Origin of Species" in 1859, shattering the existing paradigm.

Few scientists held out against the empirical evidence for natural selection that Darwin presented, but among them was one of the founders of the modern American scientific tradition, paleontologist Louis Agassiz (1807-1873).

Agassiz, whose vast private collection of fossils formed the nucleus for Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology, openly opposed Darwinism. He believed that the study of natural history was ultimately analogous to the analysis of God's thoughts.

"The combination in time and space of all these thoughtful conceptions exhibits not only thought," he wrote, "It shows also premeditation, power, wisdom, greatness, prescience, omniscience, providence. In one word, all these facts in their natural connection proclaim aloud the One God, whom man may know, adore, and love."

The arguments have evolved, but many of today's proponents of intelligent design echo the fundamental philosophy of the pre-Darwinian thinkers. In the words of one of the movement's leaders, William A. Dembski: "Undirected natural processes like the Darwinian mechanism are incapable of generating the specified complexity that exists in biological organisms... the natural sciences need to leave room for design." Evolutionary scientists, on the other hand, point to powerful evidence to demonstrate that the mechanisms described by Darwin are perfectly capable of explaining the complexity of life. – Frances Stead Sellers, for the Outlook staff

Just so you all know, if you don't already. I didn't know about the so-called Intelligent Design Theory. I worked it out on my own. I happen to subscribe to the Philosophy. It doesn't say the God didn't do it, it merely explains How He did it. None of us can ever understand God's thinking. He does what He wants to do When He wants to do it. It is easy to see How God handled the 10 plagues that Moses brought down on the Egyptians. Right up until you get to the death of the firstborn of Egypt. That was obviously retribution for the Pharaoh killing the first born of the Hebrews. No one can explain How it happened without simply attributing the Act to God.

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The Russians and Chinese held their joint-maneuvers again in 2006. The Chinese had a new program of building freighters so they could deliver the goods to Wal-Mart. They were using the proceeds of their American sales to do 2 things, improve their military and build more ships. The Russians had refurbished several of their nuclear submarines and they participated in the joint-exercise. And the occupation of Iraq continued. Rumsfeld was talking about troop reductions beginning in the middle of 2006. The goal was to reduce American troops to 'under 100,000'. The first operation tests of the THAAD Missile system were completed and they needed to do more software revisions. But at least the missile worked, it just missed. The Russians had a solution to their inability to put an ABM on target; they equipped it with a nuclear warhead. Rumor had it that the Chinese were also working on an ABM system.



The operation range of a Backfire C bomber is 7,000km. That is without refueling. The Russians had removed the refueling systems from the Backfire C bombers. When the Chinese bought an additional 40 Tu-23M bombers from Russia in 2006, they also bought 80+ refueling systems and contracted with the Russians to reinstall them. The Chinese also bought several used 707 airliners from the US. Purportedly for airline use, the airliners were secretly converted to tanker aircraft.

Someone tested a nuclear weapon in the Indian Ocean. The detonation showed up at NORAD instantaneously. No one admitted to testing a nuclear weapon. Russia quickly confirmed that the Iranians had returned the depleted uranium as agreed. The Iranians denied any knowledge of the test and the North Koreans refused to comment. Obviously somebody was lying. The next time Sharon went to Sam's Club, Gary strongly suggested that she buy a whole case (12 cans) of the 57 ounce cans of Folgers's coffee. She usually bought a case every three months, but this time she bought 2 cases. They managed to go through 4 cans a month. Did you know that drinking too much caffeine would cause food allergies?

Before they moved from California in 2005, Gary had gotten an Rx for all of his prescriptions, including the drugs that Dr. J usually provided as samples. Sharon did the same thing. It was a shame that they lost those prescriptions, they had to make another trip to LA to pick up duplicates. The prescriptions were for a 2-month supply of the drugs at a time and they had 5 refills. When they got to Flippin, they filled the prescriptions at a local pharmacy and the duplicate prescriptions at a Mountain Home pharmacy. They had to find a doctor in the Flippin area to monitor Gary's diabetes and the doctor wrote the same set of prescriptions. They took those to a second Mountain Home pharmacy. Every other month, they bought a 6-month supply of their prescriptions. Everything was carefully rotated. When the following year came, they intended on filling the local Rx at the pharmacy in Flippin. It was a dang good thing they didn't have a house payment. It was, however, a one-time expense spread over a year's period.

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There is a limit to how much preparing a person can do. You are very lucky if the canned goods you buy have a shelf life of over a year. Things like flashlight batteries have a shelf life too. You can't get too far ahead on medicine, what if the doctor changes one of your prescriptions? A 2-year backlog of prescriptions was pushing it, but over the years, Dr. J had figured out what worked and what didn't and there really wasn't any reason to change their prescriptions nor was there any reason to go to the doctor every month. They cut that back to once a quarter.

Gasoline can be stabilized, of course, and many prefer to use PRI-G. At \$2.999 a gallon gasoline was getting quite expensive in 2006. They debated whether or not to accept Ron and Linda's invitation to come to Cedar Hill, but in the end, decided to make the trip. Mary could keep an eye on the place and feed Missy and the cats. The drive to Cedar Hill is 1,047 miles and takes the average person 17 hours, 22 minutes. Gary was

driving so make that 15 hours. The Judge had called Gary's brother 'lead foot'. He shouldn't have, Roger was just carrying on a family tradition.

"Hey partner, how are you doing?" Gary asked.

"I'm tired," Ron replied.

"You look tired. Don't you guys have a housekeeper?"

"Oh you know Linda; I had to clean the house so the housekeeper wouldn't think that we actually lived in the house. Did you make good time?"

"Don't I always?"

"Friggin' gas prices are as bad as California. We'd go back to see John and Kevin but it would almost take a bank loan."

"You should have plenty of money between Linda's inheritance and selling your house."

"Can you ever have enough money? Maybe Bill Gate's has enough, but the rest of us have a long way to go."

"Show me the basement."

"We didn't put in a stair lift."

"I'll manage, partner."

"I divided the basement in half the same as you did, but I put our bedroom in the back of the storage room. Since we entertain, we fixed the basement up with a wet bar and a large screen TV. The kitchenette is also in the storeroom along with the bathroom, the laundry and generator."

"Where's your ham shack?"

"I don't have one because I don't have a license."

"Ronald, put the equipment in anyway. In a true TSHTF scenario, I doubt the FCC will be coming around checking licenses. It's only a little memory work to get a license."

"That's the problem, I can't remember nuttin' anymore. I'm 65 on September 9th, you know."

"Have you heard from Clarence?"

"Not one word."

“I haven’t either, but I keep expecting him to call.”

“Call him, you have the number.”

“I tried that and the phone is disconnected.”

“Maybe they moved back to Birmingham.”

“Did you fix up BOB’s?”

“I have emergency kits in the cars, but the only place we’ll be bugging out to is home.”

“I didn’t make up any either for exactly the same reason. I put in a 300-gallon gasoline tank on a stand.”

“The Russians and Chinese didn’t start anything this year. I half expected they would.”

“It’s only a question of when, Ronald, not if. Who do you figure tested the bomb in the Indian Ocean?”

“Probably the Iranians. You watch, as soon as Israel is sure it was them, they’ll bomb the hell out of their reactors.”

“The Iranians put in a Russian built missile defense system. I don’t think the Israelis can go up against it.”

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Things change. Ron and Robert were really into guns and reloading. Surprisingly, Gary wasn’t into reloading. These days he went fishing during warm weather and sat in the basement during cold weather and watched one of the Discovery Channels. Missy got a walk every day there wasn’t snow on the ground. Gary and Sharon had only left California a year before, but sitting around waiting for Derek to get home from Iraq made the time seem to pass very slowly. They didn’t have any place they had to rush back to so Sharon and Gary stayed for 3 nights and 2 days. Then, they packed and headed back to Arkansas.

Amy had taken over Sharon’s chore of getting Lorrie to baby steps with Jeffrey. Gary was pretty certain that Sharon was helping Amy out with gas money to the tune of about \$100 a month. Sharon managed the money and as long as everything was paid for in cash and they had enough to live on, he didn’t really care. They had zero bills, except for the monthly utility bills and even had those that they could were set up on a level pay plan. They were probably 6-7 months ahead on food, maybe more, and 2 years ahead on all of their prescriptions. They even had a little cash on hand in the lockbox in the basement. It wasn’t a lot of cash but enough. When they got back from New Mexico,

they added all of their leftover cash to the box in the basement and it looked to be close to \$1,000 in total.

“Do you know what we ought to do? We ought to take the money in the basement and buy some silver. The best forms of silver for survival purposes are pre-1965 US 90% coins and 1-oz silver rounds. The most useful forms of gold would be  $\frac{1}{10}$ -oz Gold Eagles and  $\frac{1}{4}$ -oz Gold Eagles.

“But, before going forward, it is imperative that we discuss which coins to avoid. That is because hundreds of web pages promote numismatic and collector coins, as well as foreign coins. Such coins are simply wrong for survival purposes. If the time ever comes that gold and silver coins were again used as money, coins would be worth only their metal content. Numismatic (collector) premiums would disappear. Anyone using gold or silver coins to buy goods or services would not be asked, ‘What’s the mint mark on your coin?’ Nor will they be asked, ‘When was it minted?’ The question would be, ‘What’s the gold content?’ Hand someone a St. Gaudens and tell him it contains .9675 ounce of gold, and it will be difficult – if not impossible – to convince him to accept it at more than .9675 times the price of gold.

“Second, the coins should have their gold or silver contents stamped on them; except for the bullion coins, most do not. In an emergency, having the gold content stamped on a coin could go a long way toward causing someone to accept it. Third, the coins you buy for survival purposes should contain amounts with which Americans are comfortable. We understand one-ounce,  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce,  $\frac{1}{4}$  ounce, and  $\frac{1}{10}$ -ounce coins. Americans do not easily grasp the concept of .2354 ounce or .1867 ounce.”

“How much were you thinking of buying?”

“Well, I suppose we ought to keep some regular cash on hand, but not over \$1,000. Other than the money in the basement, do we have anything to invest?”

“Not at the moment, but the Trust distribution next time should be over \$3,000.”

“How much of that could we invest?”

“I suppose you could invest the whole thing if you really think we need to.”

“Depending upon the price of silver, a \$1,000 face-value bag of pre-65 90% coins will run about \$2,500. “If we buy a \$1,000 bag every time we have the money, we’ll be in pretty good shape if TSHTF.”

“Do whatever you think is best.” It was a smart idea to buy her the Pfaff long-reach quilting machine. Best investment I ever made. Maybe this time next year I’ll have a Springfield Armory Super Match M1A rifle with a fancy scope and several hundred rounds of match ammo. 1) Don’t hold your breath; 2) There is just something about my spending

\$3,000 on a rifle that yanks her chain; and 3) That's only for the rifle, the scope is expensive, too.

Incorporating the best features of the Mark 4 M3 and VX-III Illuminated Reticle scopes, the Leupold Mark 4 3.5-10x40mm LR/T M3 Illuminated Reticle scope features M3-style adjustments and an eleven position illuminated reticle control dial. Suggested Retail Price: \$1299.99 Price - \$940.17

The Super Match M1A rifle embodies the most sophisticated development in Gas Gun technology. Capable of sub-MOA accuracy with the proper ammunition, the Super Match is built for the individual who demands the very best. A truly custom gun. Springfield's latest proprietary development for the Super Match is the rear lugged receiver. Additional extraordinary features include an ultra-heavy air gauged national match barrel, custom oversized op-rod guide and maximum dimension match grade stocks available in American walnut and McMillan fiberglass. Caliber: 7.62mm NATO; Barrel: 22", Twist: 1 turn in 10 inches, right hand, Douglas Premium air-gauged custom heavy match (Optional Hart stainless steel or Krieger barrels available on special order); Size/Weight: Walnut 11.2 pounds, Fiberglass 11.8 pounds, Length: 44 1/3" long; Mechanism: Rotating bolt, gas operated, air cooled, semi-automatic magazine fed; Front Sight: National Match front blade .062; Rear Sight: Match-grade hooded aperture with one-half minute adjustments for both windage and elevation. 26 3/4" sight radius; Capacity: 10 round box magazine (Rifles shown with optional pre-ban 20 round magazine, available from Springfield Armory); Trigger Pull: 4 1/2 lbs., two-stage military match trigger; and, SA9805 \$3,149.00 (McMillan Marine Corps camo stock). Dealer price if you can find a good dealer: \$2,519.20. Have you priced the M24 SWS? It sells for \$8,000 without the scope.

Eric, The Ammoman, has (Chinese T-57) M14 magazines for only \$139 for 10 mags or \$880 for 80 mags. That's only \$11 each in quantity. He claims: You cannot tell these from USGI mags – brand new sturdy steel construction they work and look great. We also have a one-month (no hassle) guarantee. Let's see, 80 magazines at 20-rounds each would take 1,600 rounds of ammo to fill them one time. You wouldn't have to reload magazines for the remainder of your life.

Black Hills: 100 rounds of Black Hills 7.62 180gr Nosler AccuBond ammo - \$89.25; 100 rounds of Black Hills 7.62 175-grain BTHP ammunition. This ammunition is loaded with the Sierra MatchKing. 30 caliber - \$89.45.

Let's say you can get the rifle for \$2,519.20 + 6% sales tax. That's \$2,670.35. Then you add the scope for \$940.17 plus \$10 shipping and handling. Total - \$3,620.52. Add 20 Korean magazines \$278 for \$3,898.52. Now add 1,000 rounds of Black Hills ammo, half and half. \$446.25 + \$447.25 and \$60 worth of shipping. Grand total - \$4,852.02. Unless you can shoot the eye out of a needle at 600-yards in a strong wind, buying an M1A Super Match rifle and all the extras doesn't make a whole lot of sense. What does making sense have to do with anything?

Do you really need a BOB when you rarely leave home? That depends on how far you get away from home, doesn't it? Maybe if you get over ½ hour away from home from time to time, it is worth the investment. Make it 15 minutes if that's too far. If you aren't sure what to put in your BOB, read Fleataxi's Alaskan series of stories. Just don't add a Glock because they have problems, too. The S&W J-frame revolver is very compact. The air weight J-frame was good enough for Sgt. Joe Friday. The model 360PD only weighs 12oz. empty and shoots .357 Magnum rounds. It has a scandium alloy frame, barrel shroud and yoke; titanium cylinder; overall length 6 5/16".

Remember this one from May 1, 2005?

WASHINGTON (CNN) – It appears North Korea has conducted a test of a short-range missile, White House chief of staff Andrew Card told CNN Sunday.

"I got the report this morning, so I don't know an awful lot about it. It appears that there was a test of a short-range missile by the North Koreans and it landed in the Sea of Japan," Card said on CNN's Late Edition.

"We're not surprised by this. The North Koreans have tested their missiles before. They've had some failures.

"We have to work together with our allies around the world – especially the Japanese, the South Koreans, the Russians and the Chinese – to demonstrate that North Korea's actions are inappropriate. We don't want them to have any nuclear weapons; we don't want the Korean Peninsula to have any nuclear weapons on it."

Six-nation talks on persuading North Korea to curb its nuclear ambitions – involving the two Koreas, United States, China, Japan and Russia – have been stalled since last June after three inconclusive rounds.

North Korea has already said it will stay away from the nuclear talks until Washington apologizes for comments by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in which she described the communist state one of the world's "outposts of tyranny."

US Sen. Carl Levin, the top Democrat on the Armed Services Committee, told Late Edition that Sunday's test shows the Bush administration's refusal to hold direct talks with Pyongyang is leading to an even greater nuclear threat.

"The test," Levin said, "is additional, very discouraging evidence that this administration's policy towards North Korea is failing. We've had a lot of other evidence in the last four years – the fact that they have renewed their reprocessing program of plutonium; the fact that they're now enriching uranium; and the fact they apparently can now put a nuclear weapon on a missile."

That's right, it's George W. Bush's fault that the North Koreans are buttholes. The North Koreans are going to lose their heads trying to save a little face. As for the apology, I wouldn't advise that you hold your breath.

The distance from Seoul, South Korea to Seattle, WA is 5179 miles (8336 km) (4501 nautical miles). The estimated range of a Taep'o-dong-2 (Nodong-4) is 6,000km. However, the North Koreans are capable of putting things into orbit using either the NKSL-1 - a Taep'o-dong-1 (Nadong-2) missile with a third stage and satellite added or a NKSL-X-2 - a Taep'o-dong-2 missile with a third stage and satellite added. If the North Koreans have orbital capacity, why couldn't they put their nuclear weapons on one of those platforms? How far would they reach? You don't think 6,000-miles, perhaps? The US Defense Intelligence Agency warned last week (the week ended April 30, 2005) that North Korea has the ability to mount a nuclear device on a long-range missile and the communist state could hit US territory.

See what happens when you speculate and then look for something to back up your guess? Sometimes you find out things you really didn't want to know. If North Korea attacks the US, a single Peacekeeper missile will constitute over retaliation. If the Peacekeeper can't reach North Korea, we have 14 SSBN's with 24 Trident-D missiles apiece. The military has several installations in Arkansas: Highland IP, Camp Pike, Camp Robinson, Fort Chaffee, Little Rock AFB, Ebbing ANGB, Everton ESS and Fort Smith. Thank God Whiteman AFB is so far away. I think we're in pretty good shape here in Flippin, it's mountainous and we have the shelter.

It was sort of hard for a Yankee to live in Arkansas. These good ol' boys were all mixed up. They didn't even know the name of the Civil War. Arkansas was a member of the Confederate States of America. The southern boys called it the War of Northern Aggression. If that was their viewpoint, more power to them. The thing was the sum bit ended in 1865. Gary wasn't even born until 1943, 78 years later. And he was born in California, for crying out loud. As far as he knew, he didn't have any kin who fought in the Civil War. The American Revolution, but not the Civil War. The Ott family was from McConnellsburg, PA, about 50 miles west of Gettysburg. They were farmers. On the Boggess side of the family, his great-great-grandfather was born July 17, 1824 in Franklin Co, KY, and died July 08, 1904 in Bassett, Chickasaw Co., IA. He married CLARINDA JANE LIPSY April 29, 1863 in Vermilion Co., IL. She was born July 11, 1846 in Indiana, and died February 02, 1909 in Bassett, Chickasaw Co, IA. The oldest of their children was his great-grandmother who was born in 1864.

Was everyone named Bubba or just the cops? Pretty darned confusing for a Yankee. And the southern cops weren't all bad; some of them smiled when they handed you the ticket. Most people had the facts of the Civil War all messed up anyway. It was the Battle of Bull Run not the Battle of Manassas. The Rebs kicked the Yanks' butt 2 times, or was it 3? It was a nasty, mean war that pitted family against family. Abe Lincoln freed the slaves, but only in the south. By any measure, good boys died on both sides and it was a rotten shame. Two proud groups of people with inflexible backbones. Most of the time the Yanks were better equipped but that didn't keep Johnny Reb from kicking their

butt. Now if Booth hadn't shot Lincoln they never would have had to put up with the carpetbaggers, so whom do you blame for that? A truly sad time in the history of the country, for both sides.

Except for Francisco Pancho Villa's raid on Columbus, NM on 3/9/1916 the US hadn't been invaded since 1812. Those Mexican's gunned down about 17 (14, 18, pick a number) innocent civilians, contrary to Pancho's instructions. Black Jack Pershing and George S. Patton chased Villa (José Doroteo Arango Arámbula) all over Mexico but never caught up with him. Wikipedia claims Villa had 1,500 men in Columbus, but the correct number was 485. Villa starred as himself in 3 movies and 25 other actors played the part in other movies. The battle of the Alamo occurred in Mexico, Texas hadn't declared independence until during or after the siege.

Francisco "Pancho" Villa was born to rural peasant parents in San Juan del Rio, Mexico on June 5, 1878. Named Doroteo Arango, he later took several aliases, the most popular and well-known being "Pancho Villa". Raised in poverty in Durango, he turned to cattle rustling and robbery as a young man and soon became one of Mexico's most wanted bandit leaders. As an enemy of the Mexican federal authorities who were trying to arrest him, Villa became a natural ally of Francisco I. Madero in Madero's struggle to overthrow President Porfirio Diaz. Appointed a colonel in Madero's revolutionary army, Villa led his forces in a daring raid against Juarez on May 11, 1911, capturing the city and securing Madero's position as the new President. When Madero was assassinated two years later in a coup led by General Victoriano Huerta, Villa quickly reorganized his Army of the North and became one of the most important leaders of the anti-Huerta alliance. Villa's highly mobile mounted troops, called "Villistas", inflicted a major defeat on Huerta's army in northern Mexico in the Battle of Zacatecas on June 23, 1913, and then began a campaign to the south. By December, in conjunction with the forces of Venustiano Carranza and Emiliano Zapata, Villa captured Mexico City, forcing Huerta to flee and placing control of the government in the hands of the three rebel leaders.

However, the following spring Villa was forced out of the triumvirate when he lost a power struggle with Carranza, and in the ensuing conflict his troops were badly defeated and Villa was forced to return to his headquarters in Durango. There he resumed his life as a bandit, raiding American border towns and mining camps as well as Mexican villages. On March 9, 1916, troops under Villa's command raided the border town of Columbus, New Mexico – although it was never established if Villa ordered the raid or if it was carried out without his knowledge – looting the town and killing some of its residents. The US government sent an expeditionary force into Mexico under General John J. Pershing to capture Villa. However, Villa's maneuverability and superior knowledge of the terrain enabled him to elude the pursuing American troops, and Pershing's forces withdrew from the area the following year. In 1920 the new Mexican government reached an agreement with Villa in which he agreed to halt his raids in exchange for his settling down on a ranch in Canutillo and being appointed a general in the Mexican army. However, on June 20, 1923, Villa was ambushed and killed by followers of Alvaro Obregon, a former army general, who feared that Villa would oppose their leader's candidacy for President in the upcoming elections.



During the month of May, Patton was in charge of a 15-man contingent traveling in three Dodge Touring Cars, for the purpose of buying corn from Mexican farmers. Relying purely on a hunch, Patton led a raid at a place called the Rubio Ranch, believing that one of Villa's men might be there. As it turned out, not one, but three of the enemy were there and during their attempted escape, Patton and his men engaged them in a lively skirmish resembling an old western movie gun fight. All three of the banditos were killed. Patton triumphantly strapped the bodies to the cars, one on each hood. He took them directly to Pershing's headquarters for identification where he created quite a commotion. Later, he carved two notches in his Ivory-Handled Colt .45 to commemorate his good fortune. After that, Pershing always referred to Patton as his bandit.

## The Cold War – Chapter 5 – Dear John

...that's all she wrote. Source 1st Lt. Robert Howe, a B-17 bomber pilot in WW II. Does Lt. Ralph Juhl ring a bell? He drove George S. Patton's jeep in Europe for a while. How about Pat Lockwood? He participated in Doolittle's raid over Tokyo. The only problem is that Doolittle never heard of him and he isn't on any roster of the men who participated in the mission. Every war has its 'heroes' who either weren't what they claimed to be or whatever. How about all of those SEALs from the Vietnam era who can't swim? At least they try and expose those guys.

Gary Ott wasn't any hero. He was just a drunk in the Air Force from 1961 to 1965. He never intentionally did anything brave. Stupid, maybe, but bravery wasn't on his to-do list. They try to make working at the Rocket Site glamorous. It wasn't, but it was scary. They had tanks of hydrazine, pentaborane, diborane, hydrotene and nitrogen tetroxide, liquid fluorine and 50 chemicals you never heard of. Like most of the Airmen at the Rocket Site, Gary had a 'Get out of Jail Free Card' – properly called a Toxic Fuel Handler ID Card.

On a 50' range, Gary was pretty reasonable with a handgun but until he got his cataracts removed and new lenses, he couldn't even see 300-yards. Unfortunately the left eye was 20/20 and the right eye now 20/25. Only Gary didn't want to let anybody get to within pistol range. He bought a stack of B-27 full-size (24"x45") police silhouettes and some target pasters. 100-yards seemed like a pretty good range to start shooting at. He spent a day sighting in Mini-14 rifle. The following day he moved the targets to 200-yards and spent 2-days at that range, readjusting the sights to shoot dead center mass. Finally, he went to maximum range, 300-yards, and noted the drop in the group on the targets. The rifles remained sighted in for 200-yards. The following week he spent a day on the range, again at 100-yards and noted the rise in the group on the targets.

The day after, he only took the handguns and fired at 50' and 21'. He had fixed sights, so he just vaguely noted where the groups were falling. Sharon said she wanted no part in carrying a pistol, CCW or not. Gary qualified for a CCW in Arkansas. He acquired an inside the waistband holster for a Walther PPK and it fit his gun like it was made for it, which it wasn't. Since it was only a .32 auto, it wasn't coming out of the holster except as a last resort.

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Gary caught a fair number of fish during the summer of 2006 when he wasn't off doing something else. He checked every nook and cranny for their 22-quart canning pressure cooker, but couldn't find it. He mail ordered an All American 41-quart pressure cooker because it would do 19 one-quart or 32 one-pint jars at a time, and it didn't have a gasket to go bad. Ron always accused Gar-Bear of going 1st class. This time he definitely did. It would do over 1½ case of quart jars in a single pass. They never did more than 3 7-quart loads on a single day. Sharon had sold their quart jars at her garage sale. Gary started off with 2 gross (24 cases, 288 jars) of jars and 48 12-count boxes of extra lids.

He planned to rototill a small garden and plant blue lake green beans, Brandywine white onions, California Wonder sweet bell peppers and Kennebec potatoes the following year. He might plant some cucumbers to make bread and butter pickles too. He was going to rototill in a little wood ash and a few bags of steer manure. He thought about how hard it was to use a rototiller and decided to hire the work done. The last time they'd put in a large garden was in 1979, and it had been a monster. By the time they were done, they had 147 quarts of green beans, 70 quarts of bread and butter pickles and 1,500# of potatoes put up. Raccoons had a feast on their sweet corn; maybe they should fence this garden in. All of this was to take place in 2007, next year.

Meanwhile, the price of gasoline had continued to rise, a penny here, 2 cents there, sometimes as much as a nickel, but it never came down. The Dow Jones Industrial Averages had slipped below \$10,000 and then slowly edged their way below \$9,000. There was a disaster in the making, but it was happening in slow motion. News organizations were expressing concern over the failing economy, but no one had a solution. Geraldo wanted to know if 'Has American seen its heyday?' He didn't have anything constructive to say; just his usual unsupported opinions trying to force a conclusion.

Alan Greenspan had retired, it had been long expected, and the new Chairman of the Federal Reserve had some different ideas about how to stimulate the economy. He wasn't getting a chance to put them into play because the Fed was forced to respond to the current economic situation. The cost of living in 2006 jumped 7.2%, primarily due to the price of gas and a food shortage brought on by the continuing drought. At the same time, the real income fell 3%, marking a year where real inflation was 10%. This put the Fed in a terrible position. They usually lower the interest rate to stimulate the economy and raise it to dampen inflation.

Gary and Sharon bought their first \$1,000 face value of pre-65 US dimes, quarters and halves. The coins cost them a shade over \$5,000, forcing them to dip into the cash in the basement and Sharon's checking account reserve. There is a difference between the buy price and the sell price, generally in the region of 8%-10%. During the last half of 2005 and most of 2006, they'd avoided depending on the Trust income for their living expenses. It hadn't been too hard to do because moving from California to Arkansas had reduced their expenses dramatically. The money went to preparations instead of to essentials. Then Wal-Mart stopped advertising price rollbacks and Sharon suspected the country was in trouble.

Rumsfeld held a press conference to announce that US forces in Iraq were finally below 100,000. When a reporter tried to corner him on when the remainder of the troops would be home, Rumsfeld sidestepped the issue and General Myers gave an obviously prepared statement about how we were reaching our goals. Five more bombs went off in Baghdad that day; were we really accomplishing anything? The price of gas in Arkansas was now \$3.149. According to the Internet, it was pushing \$4.00 in San Francisco, the highest price in the nation.

In truth, the United States had never recovered from 9/11. There was Patriot Act I and Patriot Act II, but all they had done was taken away peoples' rights. Hell, they might just as well repeal the Bill of Rights, somewhere in the rush to protect the country from Osama bin Laden those rights had taken a beating. Remember the Minuteman Project in Arizona? 800 volunteers worked for a month. When the month was over, referrals had been made to the Border Patrol resulting in the arrests of 320 illegal immigrants. Immediately after a new project based on the Minuteman Project, in concept, had started in San Diego. The San Diego project only wanted retired police officers and people with military combat experience.

People had learned their lesson from the 10-years assault weapons ban. As soon as the prices came down, people started stocking up on high capacity magazines and weapons that were now legal in most of the country. By late 2006, it was almost as if the assault weapons ban had never taken place. There was one thing you could count on. If the Congress ever enacted another assault weapons ban, the theft rate of firearms would triple/quadruple overnight. Cops aren't dumb and with everyone claiming a break-in a few days or weeks before the assault weapons ban would be due to be reinstated, they probably wouldn't even bother to investigate the reports. Unless you could catch the guy with the assault weapon he claimed to have sold to John Doe, how could you prove he hadn't?

Thanksgiving 2006...

Thanksgiving is as good a point of reference as anything. They thanked God for the food and the roof over their heads, but Sharon and Gary had very little else to be thankful for. Derek still wasn't back from Iraq. He hadn't been blown up yet; they had that to be thankful for. He wasn't scheduled to return to the US until March 2007. That was 5 long months and anything could happen. As had been the case when he'd gone to Kosovo, Derek had stopped keeping in touch. Gary maybe got one email a quarter at the Army Knowledge Online website. If Kosovo had been the armpit of the Universe, what was Iraq really like? Gary asked but Derek never answered. Kosovo had been total culture shock for Derek. You didn't go anywhere without your M16 and at least one magazine, on post. Off post, they carried anywhere from 1 to 4 extra magazines in addition to their usual allotment of 7 30-round magazines.

"Little turkeys, again?" Gary asked.

"I made the same menu as last year, you seemed to enjoy it."

"It was good, not too much food. Thanksgiving and Christmas are just an excuse to gorge yourself."

"All they had was the pork favored Stovetop stuffing, do you mind?"

"It all tastes the same to me anyway," Gary laughed. "Are we going to get enough money from the Trust to buy another \$1,000 face value of silver this year?"

“Not until January, Gary, I thought you knew that.”

“Maybe I did, but you know how my memory is. I think that I’ll try and call Ron after we eat. I’d like to know how they’re getting along there in Cedar Hill.”

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“Hey partner, what’s happening in New Mexico?”

“Same stuff, different day. How are things in Arkansas?”

“Same old stuff. We bought a bag of pre-65 silver coins. Derek hasn’t been blown up, yet. I’ve been fishing a lot. Bought some mason jars and a fancy canner so we can put in a garden next year. Are you feeling ok?”

“A little more tired every day, but it’s nothing to talk about. Have you heard from Clarence?”

“I’m not sure he even has our number, Ron.”

“Can you believe the price of gas?”

“It’s \$3.15 here, how much is it there?”

“\$3.299.”

“I’ll bet you’re glad you don’t own a Hummer.”

“They can’t even give them away in this part of the country. Lyn and I didn’t buy any silver coins. We bought 48 Krugerrands instead.”

“Do you think that’s wise, partner? You can’t chop them up like pieces of 8, you know.”

“I’ll suggest to Lyn that we buy some silver the next time her rent check comes in. It’s not so bad living here in New Mexico now that we aren’t feeding 3 extra adults.”

“Plus you’re only a block from Robert’s, right?”

“That, too. I’ve got to let you go, Gar-Bear, we have a house full of company. Ciao.”

“Ciao.”

The Three Amigos had been a sensation at a time in the past, but that was over and each of them had moved on with their lives. Gary was in Arkansas, Ron in New Mexico and neither one of them knew where Clarence was, probably Birmingham, Alabama;

that was where most of his family was. As individuals, they were each different than they were in a pack. Grouped together, they were all trying to outdo each other being conservative. As an individual, Clarence was a little liberal, Ron conservative and Gar-Bear was somewhere in the middle, neither one nor the other. In real life Gary was like what he'd been in college, able to understand macroeconomics but having trouble with microeconomics. Macro looked at the country and micro was more like looking at an individual family's spending habits. He understood the country but could never manage his own money.

Just to set the record straight, Ron Green's last name is really Brown, Clarence Rawlings is really Clarence Floyd and his wife's name is Shirley, not Lucy. Bobbie Joe is really Ronnie Joe. The other names are correct, as far as I know; Linda's sister's name isn't Shelia. The guy up in San Jose who made Thumper for *The Ark* runs a machine shop and really does make Gatling guns as a hobby. The same federal government that outlawed the trigger cranks for rifles says that a Gatling gun is not a machine gun because you have to continue to crank it to make it shoot. I stumbled on that fact a couple of weeks ago. A lawyer, who doesn't even know what a Gatling gun is, probably wrote the letter. And, it was written in 1997. I have no opinion on the matter, but I ought to see if Bob R. is still alive and commission him to build me a 12-gauge Gatling gun. Hand cranked, of course. I also have a link to a website that demonstrates full automatic shotguns. I'll bet those are fun to shoot. They come in 20-gauge and 12-gauge. Reflex makes a suppressor for the shotgun, but it isn't much more than a flashhider. If you're close enough that you have to use your shotgun, who gives a rip if they hear it?

In January of 2007, Sharon bought another \$1,000 face value in pre-65 silver coins. She told Gary that they had enough for any foreseeable emergency. By the way, the population of Flippin, AR is 1,357, officially. And they really do have one stoplight, now. It is a very progressive community with a lady Mayor. Probably couldn't get anyone else to take the job.

During January and February, the Russians and Chinese held joint maneuvers for the third straight year. The Chinese didn't buy any more Backfire C bombers from the Russians, either. Apparently they felt they had plenty. They had managed to launch 6 more large cargo carriers, bringing their total to 18 of the new ships that could haul 5,000 containers, each. Gary let out a sigh of relief when the maneuvers ended and the US was still intact. Gold hit \$600 on the London market at the end of December and gas was hovering around \$3.249 in Arkansas. Sharon started buying bread flour and making homemade bread. She blended in some of the general purpose flour to use it up.

Mary said that Derek was already trying to get lined up with the armor unit in Shreveport, LA. How long can you hold your breath? Gary had been holding his since July of 2005. He'd also figured out that Derek wouldn't be back to the states until the end of June of 2007. He couldn't even remember why he'd thought Derek would be back in March; maybe it was wishful thinking. He was also wondering how Lake City could have surplus ammo or overruns when they couldn't supply enough ammo for the troops in Iraq. Maybe this stuff was the rejects, but it fired ok so he didn't worry about it, he just

ordered more. You can never have too much/many of: coffee, cigarettes, ammo, magazines, bandages or toilet paper. Things that you can have too much/many of: antibiotics, prescription drugs, flashlight batteries, flour, yeast and canned goods.

Antibiotics start to lose their effectiveness after 1 year. Epinephrine is only good for 1 year so you have to replace your Epi-pen. Epi-pen is the brand name of the most common type of auto injector of epinephrine (i.e. adrenaline). Because they can be self-administered and are very fast acting, persons with severe allergies and a risk of anaphylactic shock commonly carry Epi-pens. In the US and the United Kingdom, Epi-pens are regulated medical devices and require a prescription.

The standard dosage of Epinephrine, which is supplied by an Epi-Pen, is 0.3ml of 1 in 1000 Parts (.3mg). The Pen usually has a shelf life of about 12 months, or until the contents contain a Precipitate or they discolor, whichever comes earlier. Once this occurs, the Epi-pen should be discarded if unused by returning it to your local drugstore, pharmacy or hospital for safe disposal. Despite being trademarked, common usage of the word Epi-pen is drifting toward the generic context of any auto injector. The carrying tube that the pen comes in is easily broken; however, several companies sell durable replacement carrying tubes.

Batteries lose their charge after a while. You can either buy rechargeable batteries or check the date on the package and keep them rotated. If you have a source of power, you might consider doing both. I don't use rechargeable batteries because they have less energy than the non-rechargeable batteries. It is a matter of personal preference and circumstances. Canned goods generally have a maximum shelf life of 2 years. Jars of dry yeast are generally good for the same period of time. One way to make sure you always have good food is to rotate at least half of it every year, e.g., have 2 jars of yeast one a year newer than the other.

Most, but not all drugs have an actual shelf life of about 5 years. The pharmacist puts one year on the label or maybe less. If you can make friend with your pharmacist ask him what the expiration date was on the bottle he dispensed the pills from. I have 3 sealed 100-tablet bottles of generic Vicodin ES. The one I got in 12/03 will expire 09/05; the one I got in 3/04 will expire in 11/05; and, the one I got in 12/04 will expire in 08/07. The bottles are sealed and only contain Hydrocodone and Acetaminophen. Their shelf life should be a minimum of 5 years. Generic Vicodin isn't that expensive, \$20 per 100. The problems are in getting your physician to write you an Rx for #100 and getting the pharmacy to dispense an unopened bottle. Plus these days I have several unopened bottles of Norco. Do you ever get physician samples with those little desiccants in them? Save them and add them to your back up prescriptions, assuming they come in open bottles.

In my opinion, you should never have less than a 2-month supply of all of your prescription medications on hand. Maybe that's easier said than done, but the next time, get the doctor to write your refills a little early and go to a different pharmacy. What if you have high blood pressure or are insulin dependent and TSHTF a week before you're going to

refill your prescriptions? Even FEMA advises to have a little extra medication. Ask your doctor about keeping a single course of antibiotics on hand that he is most likely to prescribe if you get sick. Generally, a broad-spectrum oral antibiotic is best; it will treat the most illnesses. Assuming you're an average person who uses antibiotics once a year or more often, you have a built in rotation system. Take the old Rx and store the new one. Always be sure to take the full course of treatment, usually 7 or 10 days. If you walk out of your doctor's office with any questions it's your fault, not the doctor's. Don't let him shine you on, you are paying him for his services and that includes information. And, if you still don't understand, go to WebMD and look it up.

Doctors use big words and charge you \$100 a visit. Carcinoma sounds a lot more expensive than cancer, doesn't it? You can buy a medical dictionary, I recommend Steadman's. WebMD also as a dictionary function, try typing in a word you don't know. I didn't know what a Whipple Procedure was or what the big deal was that I didn't have cancer until after the surgery. That was a good thing, but I sure in hell learned a lesson. All they ever told me was that I had a cyst. Yeah, right, that's why the operation took 9½ hours and they kept me so doped up I didn't even know my name. If you need a Whipple Procedure, see Dr. Mateo at USC, he's very, very good. They have this Russian redheaded nurse in the recovery room, va-va-va-voom. Nice legs, about a D. Just don't let them give you extra pain medication; especially if you are on an epidural.

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On February 12, 2007, Sharon turned 60 and on March 23, 2007, Gary turned 64. That was the most notable thing of the spring of 2007 except that Derek didn't get blown up and the Russians and Chinese didn't attack. There wasn't a SARS epidemic; nobody got the Spanish Flu or Ebola. None of the calderas erupted, but the price of gas sure did. By the end of July, when Derek finally showed up in one piece, the price of gas was \$3.719 in Flippin, Arkansas. That put the price around \$4.50 a gallon in San Francisco. Unemployment was 6.9% and rising. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was at \$8,000 and falling. Bush needed another \$55 billion for the GWOT. The Feds had pushed the interest rates down to 1%. The annual COLA that Social Security made wasn't keeping up with inflation that was running about 9%.

Based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) from the third quarter of 2001 through the third quarter of 2002, Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries will receive a 1.4 percent COLA for 2003. On 11/9/04, Social Security announced: More than 47 million Americans will get a 2.7 percent increase in their Social Security checks starting in January (2005), meaning an additional \$25 per month for the typical retiree. But almost half of that gain will be absorbed by a record increase in Medicare premiums. The cost of living adjustment announced by the Social Security Administration will be the largest percentage gain since a 3.5 percent increase in 2001. The increase last January (2004) was 2.1 percent. The increase for 2006 was 3.7% and the increase for 2007 was 4.1%. However, they were fully offset by the increases in the Medicare premiums.



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Derek was best described as gaunt. His time in Iraq hadn't been kind to him. He had lost 25# and had a new set of lines on his forehead. They'd been lucky and although Balad was in the Sunni Triangle, most of the fading insurgency was in other cities, towns and villages. He'd not hooked up with 1 of the 2 tank units in Shreveport and was to now with the Arkansas National Guard, counter battery target acquisition. Meanwhile he had to find a job. Sometimes small towns are less affected by a turn in the economy. This wasn't the case in Flippin because the town's largest employer, the manufacturer of "Ranger" Bass Boats wasn't selling a lot of boats. Flippin was home to Actronix, Ark-Plas Products, Inc., Micro Plastic, Inc., Mountain Home Mold & Manufacturing, Ranger Boat Company, Rebrod, Inc. and Volt Industrial Plastic, Inc. Plus there were twice as many other manufacturers in the area.

Derek and Mary were better off financially than at any time in their lives. Not that they had a lot of money, but lower expenses. The rent from the second house nearly paid the house payment on the property. Groceries were more expensive, but while on active duty, Derek was bringing in more income than when he wasn't on active duty and working at a civilian job. When he saw the price of gas, Derek went into orbit. Gary told Derek to fill up for the trips from his gravity tank. If Derek wanted to go in with him replacing the gas, he could do all of his fill ups from the tank. Derek told his Dad that his unit wasn't being replaced and Bush intended to stop replacing the units when they rotated home.

In August of 2007, someone tested another nuclear weapon in the Indian Ocean. NORAD picked up the test this time too, but no one knew who had tested the weapon. There were, according to CNN, 3 likely suspects, Israel, Iran and North Korea. North Korea refused to comment, Iran denied everything and the Israelis said, "What nuclear weapons?" The official policy of Israel had been to deny the existence of the 200 plus nuclear weapons since they built the first one. Some countries weren't signatories to the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. The only people who needed to test weapons were the newest members of the Nuclear Club, North Korea and Iran. The Russians again reported that Iran had returned the expired uranium, just like they'd promised. Iran steadfastly denied permission to the IAEA to examine its reactors because their agreement with Russia guaranteed they were in full compliance.

The Director of National Intelligence (DNI) is a United States cabinet-level official coordinating all 15 components of the Intelligence Community, and is the principal intelligence adviser to the President and the statutory intelligence advisor to the National Security Council. Creating the post of DNI was one of the recommendations in the report by the House-Senate Intelligence Committee investigating the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks.

On February 17, 2005, President George W, Bush named US Ambassador to Iraq John Negroponte to the post, pending confirmation by the Senate. It has been reported that President Bush's first choice for Director of National Intelligence was former Director of Central Intelligence Agency Robert M. Gates, who declined the nomination. On April 21,

2005, John Negroponte was confirmed by a vote of 98 to 2 in favor of his appointment as Director of National Intelligence, and was sworn in by President Bush on that day. Negroponte gave his first briefing to the President on April 19, 2005.

The US intelligence community had 2 real problems, the lack of Humint due to an over dependence on technology and the inability of the 15 intelligence agencies to share the information they gathered. Each of the 15 agencies felt that their information was proprietary and didn't want to share. No doubt the post was envisioned as a clearinghouse where the intelligence of the different agencies could be combined into a comprehensive report. That assumed that each of the 15 agencies wouldn't hold anything back from the Director of National Intelligence. All the heads of those 15 agencies had to do was to tell their staffs that they didn't want to know something 'officially'. It was a political solution to a political problem and it didn't work.

When the heart starts to beat abnormally, it's called an arrhythmia. There are two basic types: Tachycardia is an abnormally rapid heartbeat and Bradycardia is an abnormally slow heartbeat. Ron has a bad heart and in 2004, the doctor implanted a pacemaker in his left shoulder. Two of the most dangerous kinds of arrhythmias are ventricular tachycardia and ventricular fibrillation. Ventricular fibrillation is when the ventricles of the heart begin to beat so quickly that they can't pump blood anymore. This causes cardiac arrest, which can lead to sudden cardiac death. Although it's often confused with a heart attack, cardiac arrest is a very different problem. Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillators (ICDs) help with other problems faced by many people with heart failure: ventricular tachycardia and fibrillation. These occur when the heart's ventricles beat too quickly. If the heart beats so fast that it can't pump blood, a person can have cardiac arrest (sudden cardiac death). If untreated, cardiac arrest can lead to death within minutes.

Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy (CRT), or biventricular pacing, is an exciting new kind of treatment for people with heart failure. It's an advanced version of the pacemaker. When the heart's natural pacemaker stops working or doesn't work properly, an implanted pacemaker can help. It sends out electrical signals to keep the heart beating at a normal rhythm. Pacemakers are usually attached to just one side of the heart; however, a standard pacemaker may not be enough for some people with heart failure. Simpler pacemakers are still available to treat people with heartbeats that are too slow, a condition called bradycardia. These are some of the smallest implantable devices – often about the size of a wristwatch. They attach to the heart with one or two leads and send impulses when necessary to keep your heart's rhythm steady.

This list may make it seem like these are three distinct devices. But many implantable devices have more than one – and sometimes all – of these features. For instance, many ICDs also work as CRT or standard pacemakers. Some people need an "all-in-one" device. That way, they can be treated for a slow or irregular heartbeat but also be protected from sudden cardiac death. Ron's doctor had selected the "all-in-one" device to plant in Ronald. It didn't appear that Gary and Sharon would need the home defibrillator or the Epi-pens when Ron and Linda visited.

## The Cold War – Chapter 6 – The Last Summer

SAN FRANCISCO (MarketWatch) – Ford Motor Co. and General Motors Corp. on Tuesday posted mostly expected declines in US auto sales for April, as car buyers continued to shy away from traditional sport utility vehicles amid lofty gas prices.

What on earth is traditional about a SUV? A SUV is a Yuppie toy and they burn a lot of gas. Gary didn't do as much fishing in 2007 as in previous years. There was a garden to weed, it seemed like that took a little time every day, and a son newly home from Iraq to get to know again. If TSHTF and Damon showed up, he could use the shotgun. There still was the problem with the family being spread out between Iowa, Arkansas and California, but that couldn't be helped. The best that they could hope for was some sign that the world was not going to destroy itself. Even with Derek home again, it was an uneasy summer in Flippin, Arkansas.

George W. Bush had everyone out of Afghanistan and had accelerated the pullout from Iraq. Did George know something that the country didn't? If he did, he sure wasn't talking about it. He was concentrating on getting Social Security Reform through the Congress but was still having a lot of trouble. Just before the Labor Day holiday, Ron and Linda showed up for a visit.

"Did Clarence call you?" Gary asked. "I finally tracked him down in Birmingham and he said that he would."

"Maybe he lost the number, I haven't heard from him."

"How are you feeling?"

"Tired. Old. Man, life's a bitch and then you die."

"I thought you didn't believe in Amy's saying."

"Well, that was then and this is now. If the price of gas goes any higher, the economy is going to totally collapse."

"You never drive very fast; you should be getting great mileage. I've even had to slow down a little. What's new with the family?"

"We had to go to California, Gar-Bear; we lost Kevin."

"What the hell happened?"

"Same as always, he went into a diabetic coma only no one was around to call the Paramedics in time. He probably had a snootful of speed or coke. We didn't ask and they didn't tell. Lyn is taking it especially hard because Kevin was her youngest."

"I'm really sorry to hear that, partner. I wish that there was something I could say to change things."

"I think that it was inevitable, Gar. Linda kept sending him money for food and he probably converted it all to dope and sponged off of John."

"What's John doing these days?"

"He moved to Durango and got a job as a guard there. He's living with Linda and me. It's only about 27 miles to Durango. At least we don't have family in California anymore."

"Damon is still in Mason City, that's about 590 miles. Both girls are still in Palmdale and that's 1,615 miles away."

"Mark and Paula are still in Austin and I think that's about 1,190 miles."

"You tell them that if they have to bug out and don't have time to get to Cedar Hill to come here. Austin is only 640 miles from Flippin. It's not like this is the biggest town in the country. You tell Brenda and Jennifer to come here too. It might get a little crowded in the shelter, but they can stay here until the all clear is sounded and drive over to Cedar Hill."

"You can tell the girls to come to Cedar Hill, Gar-Bear. It is only 762 miles from Palmdale to Cedar Hill."

"That's a lot of people, are you sure you have the room? David and Lorrie have 5 kids and Amy has 2."

"My shelter is bigger than your shelter," Ron chuckled.

"I miss having Clarence asking who's on first," Gary replied. "Ok, in an emergency, we'll just switch daughters temporarily. Did Brenda ever get back with her husband?"

"Not that I know of, but he never remarried, so anything is possible. At least she straightened out her act and gets to see her son. If she had any doubts about using dope, Kevin's death scared that out of her."

"I'm grateful every day that Damon is into model rockets instead of dope."

"How is Derek doing?"

"He has a job and gotten into the Arkansas National Guard. I pay for his gas so he can afford to make that trip. He bought an Italian Tanfoglio Witness Series 10mm pistol, so he's very happy."

"I thought you were particular to the Kimber Eclipse II 10mm pistol," Ron replied.

“I am, and I plan to buy one, the day after I buy a Super Match M1A rifle and a Night-force NXS 8-32x56mm scope. The price with 1,000 rounds of Black Hills ammo and 20 magazines works out to be roughly \$4,847.02. I priced the Kimber and they’re over \$900. With the fancy rifle and fancy handgun, someone might shoot me just to get the weapons.”

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice yesterday issued a blunt warning to North Korea, which test-fired a missile on Sunday that the United States can “deter whatever the North Koreans are up to.”

“I don’t think anyone is confused about the ability of the United States to deter – both on behalf of itself and on behalf of its allies – North Korean nuclear ambitions or gains on the peninsula,” Miss Rice said during an appearance at the State Department with French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier. “We have, after all, a very strong alliance with South Korea and a very strong alliance with Japan.

“And, of course, the United States maintains significant – and I want to underline significant – deterrent capability of all kinds in the Asia-Pacific region,” she added. “So I don’t think there should be any doubt about our ability to deter whatever the North Koreans are up to.”

Was Condi threatening the North Koreans back in 2005? They didn’t seem to pay one hell of a lot of attention. They just kept building nuclear weapons and third stages for their Nadong-4 rockets. I wonder what the fly time is for the Trident II D-5 missiles on that SSBN that’s stationed off of the Korean coast? How long does it take to fuel a Nadong-4 booster? Since the Nadong-4 rocket is liquid fueled, maybe the US could launch if they ever saw the Koreans fueling all of the rockets at one time. I believe that it would be what is called a pre-emptive strike. Then again, the US always promised that they wouldn’t do that. That’s why the US doesn’t have a Civil Defense program. The real question would be on whether or not China and Russia would retaliate against the US if the US launched a pre-emptive strike on North Korea. It was just a shame that Curtis LeMay was dead.

A Backfire C bomber is capable of carrying: One to three H-22 missiles; six to ten H-15 missiles; or, 24,000 kg of 250-9,000kg free fall bombs. That’s something to think about, especially since the Russians reinstalled the refueling probes for the Chinese. Sometimes it gets difficult to separate fact from fiction, doesn’t it?

In September 2000 Congress commissioned the second Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) – the first by this name took place in 1994, although the Reed Panel certainly qualified as such a review. This second NPR was completed after the 9/11 terrorist attacks on New York and the Pentagon, and the secret report was submitted to Congress on 8 January 2002.

The March 11th issue of Time magazine published an article about a terrorist alert the previous October (2001). According to a report by the DOE's top-secret Nuclear Emergency Search (Support) Team, presumably leaked to Time, that an intelligence agent of "undetermined" reliability said a 10-kiloton nuclear bomb missing from the Russian arsenal was in the hands of terrorists. The report went on to say that terrorists planned to smuggle that bomb into New York City.

Almost simultaneous with the DOE report being leaked to Time magazine, another secret document – the NPR report – was leaked to the Los Angeles Times Newspaper. The secret NPR report named seven countries as potential targets for tactical nuclear weapons – Russia, China, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Syria, and Libya. Three conditions were listed that could call for the use of nuclear weapons: 1) to destroy targets invulnerable to conventional weapons, 2) in retaliation to a nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons attack, and 3) in the event of a "surprising military development." It almost seemed that the scare of nuclear weapons in the hands of terrorists was used to justify an escalation in US nuclear doctrine. Two secret reports conveniently leaked to the mainstream media with such precise timing should raise critical questions.

When asked about the leaked information from the NPR, President George W. Bush on 13 March 2002 answered: *We've got all options on the table, because we want to make it very clear to nations that you will not threaten the United States or use weapons of mass destruction against us, or our allies or friends.*

General Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, further confirmed the accuracy of the leaked information – the NPR *preserves for the President all the options that a President would want in case this country or our friends and allies were attacked by weapons of mass destruction.* Myers also alluded to what a "surprising military development" might be – something like Iraq attacking Israel, North Korea attacking South Korea, or China attacking Taiwan.

President Bush was asked at the 13 March 2002 White House Press Conference what his feelings were on building smaller nuclear weapons. In six paragraphs of transcript he waffled all over the place – covering everything from nuclear deterrence foolishness and warhead reduction negotiations to political gibberish and patriotic propaganda. He avoided a recognizable answer. The closest he came was: *[T]he more firm we are and the more determined we are to take care of al Qaeda and deal with terrorism in all its forms, particularly that of global reach, that we have a very good chance of solving some difficult problems – including the Middle East and the subcontinent.*

In case you can't tell from reading the excerpt, the guy who wrote the paper is absolutely opposed to nuclear weapons in any number or any form. What about Iran attacking Israel, is that the same as Iraq attacking Israel? The Chinese have made it very, very clear that they intend to retake Taiwan. You had better believe that if the US exercised the nuclear option against China or Russia, the countries would retaliate. Would they retaliate if the US attacked Iran or North Korea? Maybe they're just looking for an excuse. Darn, I left my crystal ball in California when I moved to Arkansas.

I've been worried about the US military ever since the first Gulf War. They should have appointed H. Norman Schwarzkopf, Jr. as the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. In 1990 he was chosen to run Operation Desert Storm, and was responsible for the "left hook" strategy that went into Iraq behind the Iraqi forces occupying Kuwait, and widely credited with bringing the ground war to a close in just four days. He was personally very visible in the conduct of the war, giving frequent press conferences, and was dubbed "Stormin' Norman." Richard Myers didn't follow Colin Powell as the Chairman. Here's the list:

Powell, Colin L. General, US Army. Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff: 1 Oct 1989 - 30 Sep 1993.

Jeremiah, David E. Admiral, US Navy. Served as acting CJCS, 1-24 October 1993.

Shalikashvili, John M. General, US Army. Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff: 1 Oct 1993 – 30 Sep 1997.

Shelton, Henry H. General, US Army. Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff: 1 Oct 1997 – 30 Sep 2001.

Myers, Richard B. General, US Air Force. Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff: 1 Oct 2001-Present.

You notice that they usually serve a 4-year term. Dick Myers wasn't the exception to the rule. The next in line was General Peter Pace, the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In this capacity, he is a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Nation's second highest-ranking military officer. General Pace is the 17<sup>th</sup> officer to hold the position and the first Marine. After I wrote that, look what I found: On April 22, 2005, at a White House press conference, President George W. Bush nominated General Peter Pace of the US Marine Corps to be the next Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Current Chairman Richard B. Myers will retire from the position on September 30, 2005. On his nomination, Pace said, "This is an incredible moment for me. It is both exhilarating and humbling. It's exhilarating because I have the opportunity, if confirmed by the Senate, to continue to serve this great nation. It's humbling because I know the challenges ahead are formidable."

Gary had better stop running the second stoplight they put in by the Wal-Mart Super Center. He was going to get a ticket, sure as rain. BTW. The first Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was a General who had 5 stars on his collar and his name wasn't MacArthur or Eisenhower. There were 2 6-star generals: General of the Armies John J. "Black Jack" Pershing and General of the Armies George Washington, (President Washington's was awarded retroactively). You realize, of course, that the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs was a Marine in 2007 & 2008 and only the first Marine to ever hold the position. Only 4 Air Force generals and 4 Admirals had held the position, while 8 Army Generals had the job. The first Chairman was the "soldier's general". He graduated from West

Point with Eisenhower. He was along with Patton when they went chasing Pancho Villa. He didn't meet him until years later when he was assigned to the 27th Infantry of the Hawaiian Division. He was promoted from Lt. Colonel to Brigadier General, skipping the rank of Colonel. At the end of operations in Europe, his 12th Army Group was the largest ever commanded by an American general. It consisted of Lt. Gen. Courtney Hodges' First, General George Patton's Third, Lt. Gen. William Simpson's Ninth, and Lt. Gen. Leonard Gerow's Fifteenth Armies, a force comprising 12 corps, 48 divisions, and 1.3 million men.

On 15 August 1953, General of the Armies Omar Nelson Bradley left active service. In the 28 years before his death in 1981, he occupied himself in industry and was periodically consulted by civilian and military leaders. He retained an active interest in the Army, spoke at its schools, and frequently visited units and met with soldiers of all ranks. There is no standard against which to compare Bradley as an army group commander. During the fighting in Europe, his calm and effective presence was important in times of crisis, as was his deft touch in handling subordinates. It is difficult, for example, to imagine Patton without Bradley, who exploited the talents of that volatile commander as well as any man could have done. Finally, it was his superb wartime record, combined with his reputation for fairness and honesty, which made him effective in what was probably his most difficult job, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Derek and Gary were fans of George S. Patton. Maybe Patton was a little coarse, but he got the job done. *L'avance, l'avance, toujours l'avance.* George C. Scott was the perfect actor for the part.

"A few years ago, I had the pleasure of reading *The Patton Papers*, a collection of Gen. Patton's diary entries and letters edited by Martin Blumenson. Having seen the movie, I think that no actor has ever better captured the spirit of a man better than George C. Scott, nor has any movie better portrayed that spirit than PATTON.

"Patton was a man who lived for war. World War II was the high point and culmination of his life. He didn't fight for any principles, he didn't fight to defend freedom or democracy or any abstract idea; he fought because he loved fighting. In his diaries you can read of his fear of flunking out of West Point; the prospect terrified him because he was certain that he would never be good at anything except being a general or a leader of a country.

"As a leader of men, he was exceptional. His speech at the beginning of the movie is vintage Patton, an almost exact reproduction of a speech Patton actually gave to Third Army. It's tough, and no-nonsense; Patton lets you know in no uncertain terms that he is here to win, to destroy the enemy, and by God you'd better be too. I don't know if Patton actually directed traffic on the roads as he is shown doing in the movie, but it was a very Pattonish thing to do. Patton did on at least one occasion get out of his staff car and join a squad of G.I.'s in heaving a vehicle out of the mud. Try to imagine Montgomery doing that; the very thought is hilarious!



“Patton’s character explains his treatment of his men. To those who had been wounded fighting for him he was always kind and considerate. But to those whose minds could not stand the horrible strain that war imposed on them, he was merciless; he could not comprehend the fact that other people didn’t share his love of violence for violence’ sake. PATTON shows this aspect of his character very well.

“Karl Malden’s Omar Bradley is shown in an almost father-like role; he sees and recognizes Patton’s immense talents as a general, and uses them in spite of Patton’s natural ability to antagonize everybody around him. Not shown in the movie is Patton’s unlovable characteristic of turning on his subordinates once they surpassed him in their careers. Patton had nothing but good to say about Bradley, until Bradley was promoted over Patton’s head, whereupon Patton savaged Bradley in his diary. Patton did the same to Eisenhower.

“A general can have no higher compliment than the fear and respect of his adversaries, and as PATTON demonstrates, Patton was more feared by the Germans than any other Allied general, at least on the Western front. As one German officer observes all too prophetically, “the absence of war will destroy him [Patton].” And although mankind’s single greatest stroke of good fortune in the 20th century was that Russia and America never came to blows, it is still hard not to feel sorry for Patton as he desperately seeks his superiors’ approval to carry the war on eastward into the Soviet Union - anything, just to have a war to fight. Patton is like an addict to a destructive drug.

“Hollywood has rarely given us such a textured and human portrait of a great man: cruel, often foolish in his relations with others, rude, and psychopathically attached to violence, but brave, dedicated, and loyal. Certainly those who, like myself, have Jewish blood, or who were otherwise marked for death by the Nazi state, all owe him a great debt of gratitude for his pivotal role in destroying that state. And yet, had he been born German, Patton would surely have fought just as devotedly for the Nazi side. I’m glad he wasn’t.” AMEN.

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Monday, October 2, 2007...

*My Fellow Americans,*

*At the recommendation of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and the Secretary of Defense, and after consulting with my Cabinet, we are increasing our land forces in South Korea. Recent intelligence has revealed a situation which requires our immediate attention. North Korean forces have amassed along the Demilitarized Zone. We will begin by inserting the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne, followed by the 101<sup>st</sup> Air Assault Division. The 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division (Light Infantry) is designated a Force Package 3 unit and is considered a reinforcing combat unit or “follow-on force”. They will follow the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division.*

*We will have troops on the ground within 36 hours. The 82<sup>nd</sup> is already preparing for departure. For the interim, all passes and leaves are cancelled and members of the military should report to their units. Secretary Rice will present this matter before the United Nations Security Council tomorrow afternoon.*

*I will continue to report to the American people as the situation develops. God Bless America.”*

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“Ron, Gary. The girls are on their way to your house. If this doesn’t break until after they get there, maybe there will be time for them to get here,” Gary announced.

“Do Mark and Paula need to pick up Damon?”

“He’s on his way already. He can hurry when he has to. I don’t know if Mutt will let Britney and the boys come with him and his girlfriend or not.”

“Do you have any idea how much time we have?”

“Not a clue, partner. Until the 82<sup>nd</sup> lands in Korea, the North won’t really have any reason to invade the South. Derek disagrees with me, so I don’t know what to tell you. Let me know when Amy and Lorrie get there and we’ll talk it over then. Jennifer and Brenda and their families can be here in 3 hours so tell them to make sure they bring everything that they need. I tried to find out what the DEFCON level is but even Derek couldn’t find out.”

“Did you tell the girls to hurry?”

“I told them it was a Buster situation and to be on the road in no more than 30 minutes.”

## **Buster**

Controller term for full military power: to hurry up, go as fast as possible.

## **Zero-Dark-Thirty**

Technically a half-hour after midnight, but commonly used to describe any event that is scheduled to take place after midnight and before sunrise.

What the President didn’t tell the nation was that he had ordered the Carrier Battle Groups (CBGs) to sortie as soon as they had stores aboard. Under the circumstances, anyone missing the movement would be hauled to the CBG aboard a C-2A Greyhound. Once the CBG passed the range of the Greyhound, personnel would be forward deployed to catch up with the CBGs out of Japan. Neither did he tell the nation that the US military was on DEFCON 3 and ready to advance to DEFCON 2. However, the Depart-

ment of Homeland Security raised the Threat Level to Orange from Yellow and this was announced by all of the networks and cable news channels. All submarines not in the yards for repair were ordered to sortie, too.

**EMERGENCY SORTIE: C3/7F OPORD 201 PG C-19-1**

CPF OPORD 201 APP H

C3F OPORD 301 PG C-11-A-1 “KENT RUNNER”

Port SOPA’s promulgate emergency sortie instructions for their area of responsibility. Emergency sortie plans are contingency operations to evacuate ports in an orderly way in the event of national or local emergency. These plans are often implemented in the event of hurricanes or other dangerous weather. Ensure that:

- A copy of the Sortie plan, sortie comm circuits, task organization, and formatted message blanks are available to the CDO.
- All CDO’s and other important duty personnel are trained in the use of emergency sortie materials and the actions to prepare for heavy weather.
- “Kent Runner” is an emergency sortie exercise conducted in PACFLT. Refer to C3F OPORD 301 for specifics.

Material Conditions (NWP 3-20.31) establish the fighting integrity of the ship and maintain its survivability. The determination of the material condition set at any time is the responsibility of the Commanding Officer, who may authorize modifications of any material condition:

- X-Ray provides the least tightness and the greatest ease of access throughout the ship. It is set when the threat to the ship is minimal, during working hours when in port, or when there is no danger of attack or bad weather.
- Yoke is set when at sea, or in port during wartime.
- Zebra provides the greatest degree of subdivision and tightness to the ship. It is set immediately and automatically when general quarters are sounded. It is also set when entering or leaving port during wartime, to localize damage and control fire and flooding, or at any time the Commanding Officer deems it necessary. Modified Material Condition ZEBRA - allows movement around the ship for special conditions such as: Underway Replenishment (UNREP); Vertical Replenishment (VERTREP); Air Operations; Amphibious Operations; transit of known or suspected hazardous navigation areas.

All ships were at Modified Condition Zebra. A few hours later, DHI advanced the Threat Level to Red. Severe Condition (Red) – A Severe Condition reflects a severe risk of terrorist attacks. Under most circumstances, the Protective Measures for a Severe Condi-

tion are not intended to be sustained for substantial periods of time. In addition to the Protective Measures in the previous Threat Conditions, Federal departments and agencies also should consider the following general measures in addition to the agency-specific Protective Measures that they will develop and implement:

- Increasing or redirecting personnel to address critical emergency needs;
- Assigning emergency response personnel and pre-positioning and mobilizing specially trained teams or resources;
- Monitoring, redirecting, or constraining transportation systems; and
- Closing public and government facilities.

In the event of a national emergency, a series of seven different alert Conditions (LERTCONs) can be called. The 7 LERTCONs are broken down into 5 Defense Conditions (DEFCONs) and 2 Emergency Conditions (EMERGCONs).

DEFCONs are phased increases in combat readiness. In general terms, these are descriptions of DEFCONs:

DEFCON 5 Normal peacetime readiness

DEFCON 4 Normal, increased intelligence and strengthened security measures

DEFCON 3 Increase in force readiness above normal readiness

DEFCON 2 Further Increase in force readiness, but less than maximum readiness

DEFCON 1 Maximum force readiness

EMERGCONs are national level reactions in response to ICBM (missiles in the air) attack. By definition, other forces go to DEFCON 1 during an EMERGCON.

**DEFENSE EMERGENCY:** Major attack upon US forces overseas, or allied forces in any area, and is confirmed either by the commander of a unified or specified command or higher authority or an overt attack of any type is made upon the United States and is confirmed by the commander of a unified or specified command or higher authority.

**AIR DEFENSE EMERGENCY:** Emergency which exists when attack upon Continental United States, Alaska, Canada, or US installations in Greenland by hostile aircraft or missiles is considered probable, is imminent, or is taking place.

## The Cold War – Chapter 7 – Full Alert

There was plenty of time to run to Wal-Mart and top off their stored food. It now seemed likely that they were going to need more of everything. Sharon and Gary had replenished the cash in the basement and they took it and their ATM card to the Wal-Mart Super Store. Derek went along, he was an employee. Examples of some of the efforts in Arkansas that Wal-Mart made to reach out to the community include:

- Literacy Grants: \$107,000
- Safe Neighborhood Heroes Grants: \$160,200
- Teacher of the Year Grants: \$112,000
- Arkansas' 2004 Teacher of the Year is Shannon King from Flippin Elementary School in Flippin.

Average store size (national average)

Supercenter: 186,077 sq. ft. with approx. 116,000 items  
Discount Store: 98,079 sq. ft. with approx. 62,500 items  
Neighborhood Market: 42,286 sq. ft. with approx. 38,845 items  
SAM'S CLUB: 127,776 sq. ft. with approx. 6,000 items

During the past year, Wal-Mart spent \$4,656,240,388 for merchandise and services with 2,056 suppliers in the state of Arkansas. As a result of Wal-Mart's relationship with these suppliers, Wal-Mart supports 76,444 supplier jobs in the state of Arkansas.

Not everyone in the world hates the Wal-Mart stores. China, for example, loves them. However, union grocery store employees, especially in California, hate them. When you are on a fixed income, every little bit helps. Especially when the store is right down the street at the new green-yellow-red stoplight and the Threat Level is Red. Back in California Sharon and Gary price shopped on their prescriptions. Wal-Mart not only had the lowest price, they gave a discount for people on Medicare. At the moment, the pharmacist was very understanding and didn't make them wait one more day to refill their prescriptions. The nice thing about the Super Store, among other things, was the size of some of the packages. They emptied their bank account using their ATM card. They made up the difference in cash and Derek paid for the entire group of purchases. They only lived a short distance from the Wal-Mart and Mary and the kids were welcome to stay at their house, along with her folks or at their home, it was a very short distance away. Derek could be home in a few minutes, if necessary.

The first people to show up were Brenda and her ex-husband plus their little boy. Jennifer and Ronnie Joe were right behind them. Gary got out the folding beds in the basement and Ronnie Joe helped him set them up. About 13 hours after the President broadcast his message to the nation Ron called to tell Gary that David, Lorrie, Amy and 7 kids were at his house. Gary said that they should just stay there and put Brenda on the phone to her Dad. On a straight through drive between Ron and Gary's it was maybe 19 solid hours, depending upon your speed. Ron and Linda told Brenda and then

Jennifer just to stay put for now. When Mark and Paula got there, that would even things out, 10 for 10.

And then when Damon got there with his girlfriend, and hopefully his 3 kids, they'd have 15 people not counting themselves or Derek and Mary and their 3 kids. Damon swung by Bolivar, Missouri and showed up with DJ. That little detour meant that Mark and Paula arrived before him and his bunch. Linda tried to get in touch with her sister, according to Ron, but couldn't get an answer. He thought that maybe she had headed for New Mexico. When Mark and Paula got to Gary's, Paula called her Dad and her aunt was at Ron's house. That meant that everyone was accounted for.

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The 82nd Airborne arrived in Korea without any hassle. The Security Council at the United Nations got bogged down in an argument after Condi made her speech. The President quietly slid the DEFCON level to DEFCON 2. Airliners were pressed into service to get the 101st Airborne personnel to Korea and all of the commercial cargo carriers were loaded up with military hardware and sent off as well. The fleet of C5A Galaxies (all 109) was used to ferry the 101st's equipment. The 101st has 281 helicopters including three battalions of Apache attack helicopters. Restructuring of the 101st began in 2004 and was completed in 2005.

When the original aircraft arrived back in the US after delivering the 82nd Airborne, they rotated crews and began loading the 10th Mountain Division. The flying time from San Francisco to Seoul is about 12 hours and the 82nd Airborne is stationed in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. That makes the flight at least 16 hours, each way, if they don't have to refuel. The 101st Airborne is stationed in Ft. Campbell, Kentucky and the 10th Mountain Division has to come from Fort Drum, New York. Over the last decade, the 10th Mountain Division has been involved in more deployments than any other division in the Army.

"Maybe," Gary thought, "I should call the Kremlin and find out what the DEFCON Level is. They would most certainly know."

Gary went down to the basement and put on another pot of coffee. Ronnie Joe was watching Geraldo on FOX and Geraldo said that the country was at DEFCON 2. It seemed to Gary that if the government wanted the country to know that, they would have told the country. This was the second time in his life that he'd been through a DEFCON 2 situation. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, the US Strategic Air Command was placed on DEFCON 2 for the first time in history, while the rest of US military commands (with the exception of the US Air Forces in Europe) went on DEFCON 3. On 22 October 1962 SAC responded by establishing Defense Condition Three (DEFCON III), and ordered B-52s on airborne alert. Tension grew and the next day SAC declared DEFCON II, a heightened state of alert, ready to strike targets within the Soviet Union. On 15 November 1965 the day Strategic Air Command (SAC) postured down to defense condition (DEFCON) III.

If the sirens went off, that probably meant that the country had gone to DEFCON 1 and one of the EMERGCONs. A Defense Emergency meant they were attacking somewhere overseas and an Air Defense Emergency meant they were attacking North American or Greenland. Greenland didn't seem like a likely target. It was a good thing they had picked up another dozen 57ounce cans of coffee the way it was going. By the way, Costco is generally about the same price as Sam Club or the Super Stores.

Mary and her parents had elected to stay at Mary and Derek's. That helped a little with the space. Gary had cots for the adults and sleeping bags for the little kids. The little kids thought this whole thing was quite an adventure. It had been one hell of a lot easier to get some deli food like potato salad, macaroni salad and hamburgers and hot dogs and turn the whole event into a picnic than to try and fix meals for that many people. Gary suggested that they should either fix a big pot of stew or chili. No one was going to want to have a picnic every day. All the men brought their firearms and whatever ammo they had on hand. Gary didn't have a lot of guns and there was plenty of room in the storage cabinet he used as a gun safe for the weapons.

The North Koreans withdrew 5km and the President lowered the DEFCON from 2 to 3. Nothing else changed except Russia and China reacted accordingly. NORAD was tracking a pair of North Korean satellites that the North Koreans had launched into polar orbits in 2006 and 2007. Both satellites were schedule to pass over the US at approximately the same time 3 days hence. Space Command had always assumed they were spy satellites but the North Koreans had remained mum. Since the North Koreans had never crossed the DMZ, the United Nations was helpless to sanction the North Koreans and the Security Council dropped the matter. A lot of people were making a lot of assumptions. Tick.

Dubya decided to continue the troops transfer to South Korea, just in case. Critics in the House and the Senate immediately got on the media and began to complain loudly. Homeland Insecurity reduced the Threat Level back to Orange. A substantial portion of the US Commercial air assets were busy transferring remnants of the 101st and the 10th Mountain Division to Korea and the FCC kept the commercial airlines grounded until the assets returned from Korea and could be returned to service. Tick.

"This whole thing is like watching a ballet, Ron," Gary said. "It looks like things might be settling down and as long as the kids have come this far, why don't yours go the rest of the way to your place and Lorrie and Amy come here for a visit?"

"I'll buy that, let me talk to one of the girls," Ron asked.

Ron gave Lorrie and Amy money for gas and they headed to Flippin. Gary gave the same amount of money to Ron and Linda's daughters and they took off for Cedar Hill. Both groups of children were planning on driving straight through to their destinations. Gary was allowing Lorrie and Amy 24-hours because it's never fun to travel with chil-

dren, regardless of their age. It took them 30 hours because they stopped and cat-napped somewhere in Oklahoma. Tick.

OPEC concluded an emergency meeting and the Ministers agreed to absolutely cap oil production at the current level. The Dow Jones Industrial Average slid \$275 at the news. Space Command had projected the paths of the North Korean satellites and something was most peculiar. The satellites would be in a nearly synchronous pattern on the 3rd day and one would bisect the eastern half of the US and the other would bisect the western half. Space Command hadn't realized that the North Korean satellites had the ability to reposition themselves, until now. Amy had not only brought her kids, she'd brought Baby, Scrappy and the cats. The Ott household had gone from bad to worse. Tick.

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"Cheyenne Mountain is suggesting that those North Korean satellites are being controlled and placed into position to do this country some real damage if they happen to be nuclear weapons, Mr. President."

"Have they made any recommendations?" the President asked.

"There have been some suggestions that the North Korean might be planning an EMP attack tomorrow, but they haven't made any recommendations." The Chairman replied.

"What do you think we ought to do, Peter?" Dubya asked.

"We don't have the ability to shoot down those satellites, so about all we can do is issue a warning to our military forces to prepare for an EMP attack as a precaution."

"I'll get the Secretary of Energy in here and ask him what the consequences of such an attack might be. You go ahead and issue the necessary instruction to our military units. We'll get the FCC to continue the grounding of the commercial aircraft fleets for 24-hours."

### **Electromagnetic pulse**

In addition to other effects, a nuclear weapon detonated in or above the earth's atmosphere can create an electromagnetic pulse (EMP), a high-density electrical field. EMP acts like a stroke of lightning but is stronger, faster and briefer. EMP can seriously damage electronic devices connected to power sources or antennas. This includes communication systems, computers, electrical appliances, and automobile or aircraft ignition systems. The damage could range from a minor interruption to actual burnout of components. Most electronic equipment within 1,000 miles of a high-altitude nuclear detonation could be affected. Battery powered radios with short antennas generally would not be affected. Although EMP is unlikely to harm most people, it could harm those with pacemakers or other implanted electronic devices. (from the DHI)



The Secretary of Energy said that there was a limit to how much his department could do. The millions of miles of wire that made up the electrical grid would act as antennas in the event of an EMP attack and it would probably take the electrical grid down for an unbelievably long time. The people of the US should be warned because an EMP attack could kill people who had pacemakers. Dubya had his Press Secretary call an emergency news conference and give the news to the nation. Tick.

Right track, wrong train. Have you ever heard that expression? The repositioning of the satellites was a ruse to attract the US's attention off the growing crisis in Korea. There was so much going on that it was like trying to rub your head and tummy and chew gum at the same time. Magicians call it misdirection. In South Korea the US was still trying to match all of the soldiers with their equipment and move them to a position between the DMZ and Seoul. The Herculean effort had moved 2 Divisions to South Korea in 54 hours and the third was on the way. No one had thought it possible, but they didn't talk about it, they just did it.

Zero hour came and passed and the satellites didn't detonate. Right about the time the 10th Mountain Division was preparing to land in Korea, the North Koreans came across the DMZ like it wasn't even there. They made it 3km into South Korea before anyone was able to react and put up a serious defense. China and Russia raised their alert status and the US responded in kind, returning to DEFCON 2 and raising the Threat Level back to Red. The White House recommended that the local governments impose a voluntary dusk to dawn curfew until the extent of the threat was known.

China took advantage of the situation and attacked Taiwan. The President diverted 2 CBG's to the area of Taiwan. Have you ever played 3-card Monte? It's a variation on the old shell game only it's done with 3 cards. Even if you pick the right card, you somehow manage to lose. China had made a lot of promises to Kim Jong-il in return for him distracting the Americans. Among those promises was a promise not to press on the nuclear question. Using their new ships and their old ships, the Chinese were able to attack Taiwan with over 200,000 troops. They also had 80 Backfire C bombers loaded with conventional weapons, permitting them to stage a Blitzkrieg on Taiwan. The US was committed to the defense of Taiwan and moved to DEFCON 1.

China introduced three new types of ballistic missiles, including the land-based DF-21 and DF-31, and the submarine-launched JL-2, in the 1990s to replace the older generation liquid-propellant DF-3, DF-4 and JL-1. The DF-21 intermediate- and DF-31 long-range ballistic missiles are both solid propellant, road-mobile missiles with shortened launch preparation times and improved accuracy. An improved version of the DF-31, known as DF-31A, has been given real ICBM capability by increasing its range to 10,000km. This would be sufficient to cover the entire western portion of North America. There is also evidence showing that China was developing the MIRV capability for the DF-31A and JL-2 to improve their strike capabilities.

At the same time, China continues to improve the performance of its older DF-4 and DF-5 ICBMs. Early models of the DF-4 and DF-5 have been replaced by the more capable DF-4A and DF-5A. The DF-4A was upgraded in the early 1990s under the name of CZ-1D space launch vehicle project, which gave the missile an extended range of 8,000~10,000km. The DF-5A was upgraded to an extended range of 13,000km, enabling it to strike any corner of the earth from China. Both missiles are deployed in “ready-to-launch” status in silos located in central China.

The Dong Feng-5 (DF-5, NATO codename: CSS-4) is China’s first intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). Developed by China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology (CALT, also known as 1st Aerospace Academy), it is a silo-based, three-stage, liquid propellant ballistic missile. The missile carries a single 2 megaton nuclear warhead and has an effective range of 12,000km. The DF-5A is the improved variant with an extended range. The PLA currently deploys approximately 24~36 of this missile deployed in central China.

The DF-31 is a three-stage, solid fuel, 8,000~10,000 km range ICBM, which could reach targets in all of Europe, the west coast and several northern Rocky Mountain states of America. Current load of the missile is a single 700 kg one-megaton yield thermonuclear warhead, although MIRV with lighter yield warheads is an expected option.

As part of the new generation of missiles, the DF-31’s characteristics include road mobility, advanced materials engineering for payload and booster, improved solid-fuel propellant as well as endoatmospheric re-entry decoys, making it very difficult to counterattack at any stage of its operation, from pre-flight mobile operations through to terminal flight phases.

The foregoing information is very dated; it had a copyright of 2003. I read a few things that got my interest: 12,000km; MIRV; and, upgraded to an extended range of 13,000km, enabling it to strike any corner of the earth from China. The numbers of missiles sounds small, but that was in 2003 and they didn’t have MIRV’s. The year is 2007 and maybe we should change our assumptions about how many missiles China has. What else had Kim Jong-il promised China in return for their promises? Back in 2004, it was reported that North Korean had as many as 7 nuclear weapons. Perhaps they have more in 2007? It doesn’t seem to make much sense to have more missiles than you have warheads. The US and Russia have more warheads than missiles. Tick.

Perhaps some things are inevitable. The sun rises in the east and sets in the west, for example. China has long insisted that it would take back Taiwan. The North Koreans are, plain and simple, buttheads. The entire world is angry at the United States of American and accuses the US of being a Hegemon. If the US had learned a single lesson from 9/11, it ought to be that there are people out that that don’t like the US and are willing to die to prove their point. The number of lives lost on 9/11 wasn’t the point. Osama says that he never expected the WTC to collapse, although he was happy that it did.

Much of the dispute isn't about religion. The North Koreans and the Chinese are Communists and unless I recall incorrectly, Communists aren't big on religion. I also seem to recall that not all of the Muslims in the world hate the US. They may have some issues with the US approach to problems, but it's not necessarily about religion. Much of it is simply a difference in ideology. Russia has been a whole lot better off since they embraced capitalism. The country has turned into quite the arms dealer, among other things.

DHI says that if there is a nuclear terrorist attack on the country it will probably be terrorists using the non-stolen, non-missing, non-Russian 1kt suitcase bomb (same reference). Do I think that we'll ever get to the point in human history that we finally use all of those nuclear weapons? God, I hope not! But, what if we do? Tick.

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I ended *The Rifleman* with a chapter entitled Duck and Cover. The film includes a few factual errors. Boys haven't worn ties to school in my lifetime and I haven't seen a schoolgirl in a dress since the 1950's. The film pre-dates the hydrogen bomb. However, it might be very appropriate if terrorist had suitcase nukes, they only have a blast radius of ~360 meters. If you see the flash, you'll probably be blind. Don't look for the Civil Defense shelter because we don't have any. The reason is that we wanted to persuade the Russians we wouldn't make a first strike. That was in the 1970's. This is the first decade of the 21st Century. How come the Russians have shelters and we don't? Disney still has those large boxes of emergency equipment in all of their buildings in Los Angeles. It's intended for earthquakes, but one disaster is as good as another.

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The North Koreans had served their purpose and quickly withdrew back across the DMZ. The Americans and South Koreans didn't pursue them as they were still getting organized. The President diverted 2 more of the CSG's to Taiwan. Nobody knows where the boomers are except for the people aboard the boats. They can easily be reached using ELF, Extremely Low Frequency radio. The boats can be staged to a particular level of preparedness and put on hold, if need be. Under this circumstance, it depends on whether they been given the PAL codes and put on hold for 6 hours or not given the PAL codes and are waiting to receive them. In the former instance, they may end up launching when the hold period expires if they haven't received orders countermanding their previous orders. For the sake of argument, assume it's possible. Tick.

Where are the hands on the Doomsday Clock? They've been ticking down and are about 10 seconds before midnight. Chicago, February 27, 2002: Today, the Board of Directors of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists moved the minute hand of the "Doomsday Clock," the symbol of nuclear danger, from nine to seven minutes to midnight, the same setting at which the clock debuted 55 years ago. Since the end of the Cold War in 1991, this is the third time the hand has moved forward. The link suggests what the world must do to turn the hands back. It didn't happen. The hands should have been

moved 410 seconds closer to midnight. That didn't happen either, everyone was too busy ducking and covering. In 2010, it was moved up to 6 minutes from 5.

The Discovery Channel changed the name of the Wings Channel to the Military Channel. I watched what happens on a boomer when they get an EAM. EANS is the emergency action notification system and EAMAS is the emergency action message authentication system. ELF is defined as extremely low frequency (30-300 Hz). Just because we keep telling ourselves that it will never happen doesn't mean that it won't. Otherwise, why does the guy with the football go everywhere that the President does?

In the boomer program, they end up the drill by showing a test launch of a Trident I or Trident II missile. D-5 missiles were first intended to carry the 475-kiloton W88 warheads encased in Mark-5 reentry vehicles. But less than 400 of these warheads were manufactured (some sources say the number is 384). The Mark-4/W76 has 100 Kilotons yield and have a START-1 restriction of six maximum on Trident-1 and eight maximum on Trident-2. I probably told you that already.  $24 \times 8 \times 14 = 2,688$  times 100 Kilotons = 268Mt of warheads on the boomers. One D-5 missile will take care of North Korea, leaving 24 times 14 minus 1 missile available for other targets (335).

Do North Korea and China have a mutual defense pact? Even if they did, North Korea did what China wanted and China probably wouldn't honor it. I mean, hell, the US still has 2,680 warheads on subs plus the Minuteman and Peacekeeper missiles, so would you? I sure as hell wouldn't. I believe that Russia can tell where the missiles are targeted, too. They aren't going to reply to missiles that obviously aren't aimed at them.

I just heard Oprah say on TV that Americans want to know. That's a lot of BS; Americans don't give a crap about most things that don't directly affect them. Most Americans think that people who believe in being prepared are crackpots until the hurricane blows down their house. And then, they want to borrow your portable generator. Be a good neighbor and tell him that he can use it in a couple of months when you're through with it, unless he has a gun. Chris never loaned me the generator that I bought and paid for when we had a power outage. It was a 5kw generator that I bought back when you could afford one. Are you really going to be an idiot and let  $7 + 4 + 4 + 5 + 2$  (22) extra people into the shelter you designed for 2 people? Sure you are, if they're family, or, your in-laws, or maybe your favorite neighbor and his wife and their 4 kids. Plan for the unexpected then double or triple it, if you can.

Don't believe that the US will never make a first strike. Don't believe that they don't have any of the nuclear tipped Tomahawk cruise missiles on the 4 SSGN's (one tube – 7 in each). The government readily admits that they have them in inventory and when you carefully read Global Security, you'll discover that they have about 400 of the nuclear tipped cruise missiles **deployed**. If you were China and you were really, really smart, you'd accept your losses of ships and troops that occurred when the US launched some nuclear tipped cruise missiles (TLAM-N) from something at the ships standing off Taiwan. The Chinese lost great face.

"I'm surprised that I got through, Ron, we have incoming," Gary spoke rapidly. "I think this is one of those Katie bar the door, here come the Indians situations. Good luck, partner."

"You too, Gar-Bear, I'm sure glad we got the hell out of California."

"You did get off your butt and buy a radio didn't you?"

"I bought one for 10-meters only."

"Good. Unhook your antenna and call me on 10-meters in 2 weeks, I set up the scanner for the 10-meter band."

"Ciao."

"Arrivederci." (Ciao means hello.)

TOCK.

The hands on the clock reached midnight when China retaliated. NORAD saw the missiles being launched and sent the 50 Peacekeepers and some of the Minuteman missiles to have Chinese for dinner. The President issued the PAL codes to the boomers and put them on a 6-hour hold. The Peacekeeper missiles have 10 W87, 300Kt warheads each. Some of the W87 Peacekeeper warheads will be redeployed on Minuteman ICBMs under the Safety Enhanced Reentry Vehicle (SERV) program. Each W87 warhead will displace one W62 (170Kt), or three W78 (335Kt) warheads currently deployed on Minuteman. The W62 will be retired by the end of fiscal year 2009. The US currently has 620 B83 bombs that have an adjustable yield from low to 1,200KT. Eighteen of the B-2 Spirit Bombers can carry 16 of the weapons.  $16 \times 18 = 288$ . The B-52 bomber can also carry 8 of the B83 bombs. The US has 44 combat-coded and an active force, 85 of B-52 bombers and a reserve force of 9.

During the Cuban Missiles Crisis in 1962, the first time in history that the US went to DEFCON 2, all of the nuclear bombs were loaded aboard the planes. The military has a pattern of doing the same thing over and over again. The best way to save a plane is to get it airborne. That way if the Chinese react to your attacking their fleet with a nuclear tipped cruise missile, all of your bombers and bombs are safe. It might be a good idea to use up the Minuteman missiles that still have the MIRV'd warheads, too. That way you won't have to replace them.

In case you hadn't noticed, the Cold War had finally ended. Parts of the country were very, very hot, as in 3,000R/hr an hr after the detonation. Other parts of the country weren't nearly so hot. Ft. Smith had taken a hit, I wonder why, and the radiation drifted to the east, as expected. All 48 state capitols had taken at least one, and sometimes more, nuclear weapons and so did many or all of the 100 largest cities in the United States. Other targets included military installations. However, the Chinese hadn't hit any

of the missile silos. THAAD was still in the test stage and the US didn't have an ABM umbrella. Maybe some of the military installations had the Patriot PAC-3 missiles and maybe not.

## The Cold War – Chapter 8 – Click, Click, Click

“Derek, would you please turn that damned thing off?” Gary asked. “We already know there’s radiation out there and the needle is off the scale. We can turn it back on in a couple of weeks. You know the drill, right?”

“Yes Dad, I’ll turn it off,” Derek replied. “Whoever it was has gone and done it this time haven’t they?”

“The last news on the TV said that China had attacked Taiwan. Somehow I didn’t think it would be the Russians, they are better off than the US was before all of this happened.”

“What did they hit us with?” Derek asked.

“I seem to recall that there was some division about how many weapons China had. The numbers ranged from a low of 300 up to 1,200. The best estimate I think I ever saw was about 400, but that was back in 2004.”

“But why?” Damon wanted to know.

“Why what? Why did they attack us, knowing full well that we’d wipe them off the face of the earth? Maybe we made the first strike, who knows? It would only take one or two nuclear cruise missiles to wipe out most of the force they had attacking Taiwan.”

“Damon, the Chinese could never let a nuclear attack, even it was only on their Navy, go unanswered,” Derek explained. “You were in the Navy, you should know that better than anyone.”

“What’s for supper, honey?” Gary asked Sharon.

“Chili. Do you think that Charlene, Shirley and Johnny are ok?”

“Johnny for sure, he was a jarhead. Charlene was in California City and there is nothing there to attack. I can’t speculate about Shirley, I’d guess that they hit Des Moines. But, Shirley has a basement so she might be ok.”

Sharon didn’t like cooked tomatoes and never had. It had been nearly 30 years into the marriage before she found a spaghetti sauce she liked. Consequently for many years, they didn’t eat a lot of spaghetti. She also thought of chili as a soup. Her chili wasn’t thick and instead of tomato sauce and tomato paste, she used one can of diced tomatoes added near the end of the cooking process for every 2 pounds of meat. A person had 2 choices, eat the food the way she cooked it or put up with a woman who felt as if she’d been scorned. Gary might have been slow, but he wasn’t stupid. Besides, that was the way his mother fixed chili, except for the tomato part. Plus, you could always add more chili powder to your individual bowl of soup.

As far as Sharon's brother and sister's went, there was nothing that they could do but wait and see. Shirley probably would have come to Flippin once she was totally convinced that there wasn't any other alternative. That probably didn't come until the missiles were flying. John Alfred was somewhere in Colorado. The last time Sharon and Johnny had talked had been in 2003 or 2004. They'd gotten into a fight over Sharon's dollhouse that her dad had built for her 8th birthday years before and didn't speak to each other anymore. Sister Shirley had recovered the Ark (as in Noah with wooden animals) and the dollhouse Roy had built and she paid a carpenter to restore them to their original condition and then spent a fortune shipping them to California.

North Korea, China and the United States were, to varying degrees, Wastelands. However, the mightiest military power in the world didn't just roll over and play dead because the country had been hit. Much of the projected power of the country had been at sea or in the air when the warheads hit. It hadn't been that difficult for the bombers to find someplace to land, there were places like Edwards AFB, Rosamond Dry Lake and Area 51, for example. The F-117A Nighthawk's again made their home at Groom Lake. There are 54 of the aircraft in the fleet and they moved back to Area 51 along with the B-2 bombers. The B-52 bombers all landed at Edwards, as did the B1-B's.

Originally envisioned as a major upgrade in US long-range capabilities over the B-52, the first B1 program was cancelled by Jimmy Carter in 1977. The B1-B is a multi-role, long-range bomber, capable of flying intercontinental missions without refueling, and then penetrating present and predicted sophisticated enemy defenses. It can perform a variety of missions, including that of a conventional weapons carrier for theater operations. Through 1991, the B-1 was dedicated to the nuclear deterrence role as part of the single integrated operational plan (SIOP). Converting the B-1B to the conventional role was a gradual process, beginning in 1993 and culminating in October 1997 when the 7th Bomb Wing at Dyess AFB flew the last nuclear mission.

As a conventional bomber the B1-B is an exceptional aircraft. The aircraft suffered from only one major problem. Constraints on development of the B model and budget restraints resulted in an aircraft that wasn't as good as it could have been. Dale Brown wrote a book published in November of 1999 titled *Battle Born*. It is about a B-1B Lancer unit in Nevada being trained into a new tactical strike unit.

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What would you do if you were stuck in a bomb shelter for 2 weeks with 23 other people? You don't have a TV or radio that can get any reception, but you can always play a movie or play cards or clean your guns or read a book or just plain go crazy. I'll skip the latter, been there, done that, etc., etc., etc. You could try to count the clicks on your CD V-717, assuming you have one. If you are getting very many clicks on your CD V-715, you have a problem, especially if it's on the 500 R/hr setting. You know that your house is still standing, especially if you're in Flippin or Cedar Hill. You also know there's a coating of fine ash because your CD V-717 is going crazy. Finally, you know that the only news you'll be getting for a while will be very local.



After a couple of weeks, when you can come out of your shelter, you're going to have to clean up the decayed radioactive fallout and check on friends and neighbors. You saw a lot of them at the Wal-Mart Super Store when you stocked up so you're hoping most of them made it through and have enough supplies to last for a while. You know you have plenty, for now, but only because you're one of those crackpots who were convinced Armageddon was coming.

The odds are that there wouldn't be any electricity or natural gas. But Gary saved all of the instruction manuals for the stove, hot water heater, dryer and furnace and bought the jets to convert them to propane. You know you have a problem from the getgo because you only have 3,000-gallons of propane and now you're going to be running everything off that single tank. But, you know where the propane company is located and you can always barter for more, or steal it if necessary. When he moved to Flippin, Gary gave up on writing Patriot Fiction and concentrated on trying to stay alive as long as possible and getting ready for the Big One whatever the 'Big One' turned out to be.

Derek probably wasn't going to Shreveport anymore, either. To get there, he had to go through Little Rock, which was probably gone, only to get to Shreveport, which was probably gone also. They couldn't call him on the phone and order him to active duty because the phone lines were gone. They couldn't broadcast a Presidential Order ordering all of the National Guards and Federal Reserves to active duty, because there wasn't any radio or TV. For a change, he could stay home and take care of his family instead of going God knows where and helping other families.

Amy would be grateful to be alive, but wondering why she had spent the last 10 years getting an education. She had her BA from Bakersfield and had finished 2 years of law school before TSHTF. What could you tell her? Suck it in and establish residency in Arkansas; maybe you can be a politician. Lorrie wouldn't care about what was happening one way or another. David could always find a job as a locksmith in the area. It would be very handy having David there, because you forgot to buy a pair of heavy-duty bolt-cutters. David could pick the locks, instead.

Damon had spent the entire 2 weeks calculating where his next model rocket would land, once he found someplace to buy more motors and tubing, etc. Gary had spent the entire 2 weeks taking inventory of the things stored in the shelter. Because he was anal retentive, he marked down everything that was used and managed to get everything on a spreadsheet. Ron hadn't been on 10-meters yet, but that could be for a dozen reasons, including the fact that he didn't know anything about radios.

"I think that's the end of it, kids," Gary announced. "Russia won't attack this county because there isn't much to attack. They won't invade because there's nothing to get and we still have a military because we had 3 Divisions in Korea and the entire Navy was out of port."

"What do you want to do first, Dad?" Derek asked.

“Decontaminate everything, but that’s probably going to have to wait until spring. For now, everyone will take the KI for the recommended period and you can check out the homes for any radioactive hot spots.”

“We don’t have any electricity or natural gas, Dad. Our home won’t be habitable.”

“You have a fireplace and I have 4 cords of wood. We’ll just have to get by. I have a 7kw portable generator and there are 300-gallons of gas in the tank. Improvise. Adapt. Overcome.”

“That was only a movie.”

“It is still very good advice. I’ll put Damon and his family up with me. You can put Amy and her kids up with you. If your spare house is empty, we can put David and Lorrie there. We’re going to need to go to Wal-Mart and find a generator and some wood cutting tools so David and the boys can harvest extra firewood. I don’t have any extra guns so either I’m going to need to give David Sharon’s Mini-14 or we’re going to have to see what we can find at the Super Store.”

“The store will be closed, Dad,” Derek pointed out.

“David’s a locksmith, so that won’t be a problem. When there is no one around, it’s called scavenging. They only call it looting when you get caught. They sell firearms so we can probably equip David and the boys pretty well. Grab the Survey Meter and let’s get going. The early bird gets the worm. Amy you stand by the scanner and listen for Ron to call.”

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“Listen, you aren’t going to have electricity to run the lights, so get kerosene lamps and all the 2-gallon jugs of kerosene you can find plus spare wicks. The vehicles all run so we didn’t get any EMP. Don’t worry about spare parts for the vehicles. Concentrate on food, shelter, clothing and a means to defend yourself. Here’s a list of our prescriptions, get what you can from the pharmacy, but don’t take anything we don’t need. I have a list of antibiotics to take but don’t take more than a couple of courses of treatment for each family. I wrote down the quantities for a single course of treatment,” Gary instructed.

The scavenging went very well and Gary concentrated on making a list of everything they took. After the country puts itself back together and Wal-Mart reopened the store, he’d come in and settle up with the store manager. Derek left a note for the store manager telling him that he and his family had been in the store and taken some things. They had a list and could settle up later. It allowed them to feel more like consumers and less like thieves. A 2-gallon jug of kerosene will run an oil lamp for a very long time. If you buy kerosene and store it for a very long time, it will varnish the inside of the jug, but it will still burn. It is much worse if you buy lamp oil instead of kerosene. And don’t

forget to buy extra wicks, because to keep a lamp burning evenly, you have to trim the wick. Sort of straight across and nip off the corners a tiny bit. It is also probably a good idea to have a few spare chimneys.

I've often wondered about something. The markets in London, New York and other places presently set the prices of gold and silver. After a major disaster, say like a thermonuclear war when the markets have been destroyed or closed, how is anyone going to know the price of gold and silver? One is going to have to assume that the government somehow managed to survive, that's why they have shelters for government officials all over the country, so why is paper money not going to be worth as much as it was before? Inflation, I can understand, but why assume money will be worthless?

When the tsunami hit in December of 2004, the whole world rushed to the aid of the people in the Indian Ocean. Why won't the whole world rush to the aid of the belligerents in case of a nuclear war? South Korea probably took the opportunity to help North Korea recover after the US launched that single Trident II D-5 missile and ended the Korean War once and for all. Countries that would no doubt move in to help the Chinese also surround China. Even though the US and Canada have had their problems, I can't imagine the Canadians and probably the Country of Mexico wouldn't lend aid to their North American cousins. You simply have to believe that Great Britain would be there as well. People have long memories and the US participated in WW I and WW II. The US helped Europe rebuild after WW II with the Marshall Plan.

The US would probably be inundated by the UN whether or not they'd been invited. They would be there to help, not to invade. Everyone knows that the ideology of the US and the UN are at odds. Without doubt, the UN would move to Europe, probably The Hague, Netherlands, after a thermonuclear war involving the US and some other country. Second choice would probably be Brussels, Belgium. The greatest danger from the UN being in the country would be the gun grab that would accompany the other countries lending aid.

The Wall Street Journal by ROBERT L. BARTLEY, Editor  
Monday, October 7, 2002 12:01 a.m. EDT

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. – That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.*

*Jefferson's phrases are well worth remembering just now. The government created by the Declaration of Independence two centuries ago is weighing war against Saddam Hussein before he acquires nuclear weapons. And high-minded folks around the world are urging it to submit to the judgment of the United Nations as arbiter of when war is justified. Just what is the United Nations, anyway? When and how did it receive "the consent of the governed"?*

*To ask this question is not to dismiss the UN out of hand. It does serve helpful functions on the likes of post and telephone service. Its efforts to aid the world's refugees have often been exemplary. On a grander scale, it is a forum where the world's governments meet and talk; if the UN didn't exist, we'd have to invent it. At times it has even advanced the interests of security; when the first President Bush was seeking support for the first Gulf War, the UN signed up before the US Senate did. Even in its darkest hours its promise – a forum for settling disputes among nations without violence – is a promise worth preserving.*

*A moral exemplar it most emphatically is not, however. Its moral standing and moral record deserve to be rehearsed just now. Whatever its pretensions, and however much they're cheered by the limp-minded, in fact the UN is the epicenter of world cynicism. Here idealistic rhetoric is routinely invoked on behalf of power politics and often-sheer tyranny. In extenuation, it could scarcely be otherwise.*

*The nations of the world are after all a mixed lot. They range from long-standing democracies such as the US and United Kingdom to one-man-all-the-votes politics in Cuba or Zimbabwe. They range from giants such as China and India to dwarfs such as Andorra and San Marino. Kiribati and Maldives worry about vanishing if global warming raises sea levels on their Pacific atolls. In the Caribbean, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and also St. Kitts and Nevis, claim Queen Elizabeth II as head of state.*

*Under the principle of "state sovereignty," each of these 191 nations has the same vote as any other. Except of course that the five "permanent" members have a veto in the Security Council; the favored members include France but not Japan or India. For that matter, the permanent members are not so permanent, with the definition of China changing at the convenience of "world opinion."*

*Now, how many of these governments can claim the consent of their governed? In its latest annual exercise, Freedom House judged the state of freedom of 192 countries for 2001-2002. Of these, 85, with some 41% of the world's population, were "free," enjoying political rights and civil liberties. Another 59, with 24% of the world's population, were "partly free," with significant but abridged rights – in particular one-party political systems. The remaining 48 countries, or 35% of the world's people, were "not free," with no consent of the governed or respect for the individual.*

*The United Nations is what you get when you have this *mélange* send representatives, confine them in a hothouse on the East River, stir briskly, and tell them to go forth to solve the great issues of the world. In the political pushing and shoving, too, some nations follow Marquis of Queensbury rules and others do not. Left to its own devices, the cacophony produces a contorted consensus.*

*• Consider: While Freedom House counts 192 nations, the UN counts 191. The pariah is a nation rated free, indeed a nation of 23 million souls and the world's 17th largest economy. Namely, of course, Taiwan, which has been blocked from UN membership every year for 10 years now. China, rated not free, has managed to impose its view; its*

foreign minister proclaimed, "All acts aimed at the independence of Taiwan are doomed to fail."

- *Consider: The United States has just been readmitted to the UN's 53-member Commission on Human Rights. It was voted off last year by opposition from the tyrannies and perfidy by the Europeans. Other commission members include such paragons of human rights as Cuba, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Vietnam and Zimbabwe. The agenda concerns much mischief over Israel, as well as efforts to revoke consultative status of Freedom House.*

- *Consider: In President Bush's UN speech in September, he said the US is willing to return to the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It withdrew from UNESCO in 1985 after Congress sent its General Accounting Office to confirm that director Amadou Mahtar M'Bow had created a fiefdom without a trace of accountability, financial or otherwise.*

- *Consider: Secretary-General Kofi Annan thought it was a great victory when Saddam Hussein offered to talk about letting UN inspectors back into Iraq on the same terms that didn't work the last time. The important thing is not whether or not the inspections succeed in curbing weapons of mass destruction, that is, but whether they come under UN auspices.*

*President Bush tolled off all of the resolutions the UN Security Council passed in its better moments, resolutions that Saddam Hussein has systematically violated these last 10 years. The UN now faces "a difficult and defining moment," as the President put it, in progress toward its promise. If it fails, it has no reason in justice or morality to claim deference from a government that has for two centuries now pursued Jefferson's principles.*

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As we later learned, Kofi Annan's actions with respect to the Food for Oil Program raised a lot of questions. It would be better if the UN moved to The Hague or Brussels, it would get them closer to their constituents. Besides, the Survey Meters are clicking loudly in parts of New York City anyway. What do you think would happen when the United Nations sent in troops to help China and the United States recover from World War whatever number it was? I have my opinion about that, too. The United States has always been a rebellious nation. Nothing you can say will change my opinion on that. Most Americans are pretty independent thinkers and they don't like to be told what to do. How many people do you know who tell me to do something and I tell them to go to hell, but ask me and I'll do almost anything?

An all-out nuclear attack on the United States or China wouldn't kill all of the people, regardless of what anyone says. Most people in the Tornado Belt have storm shelters. This would just be a storm of a different kind. Ask most people over 60 what the 7-10 Rule is and they maybe can't explain it, but they know it means that you have to stay in

a shelter for at least 2-weeks after a nuclear war. Depending on where they are located, some of those people might get a little extra radiation. The rule-of-thumb is 300R in 4 months to avoid medical problems. If you don't have Dosimeters or a Survey Meter, you're going to need to limit your exposure. That's common sense and we've had Three-Mile Island and Chernobyl to remind us. Keep the kids indoors as much as possible unless you have Potassium Iodide or Potassium Iodate.

There are presently approximately 20,000 nuclear weapons in the world. They are not all in the hands of sane people, by my measure of sanity. Remember 2003 and 2004? India and Pakistan were at each other's throats over the Kashmir and there was a lot of concern that one or both of the two countries would use their nuclear weapons. In 2004 and 2005, most of the concern was focused on Iran and North Korea. I can't think of 2 more insane countries, can you? I also believe that the Chinese are, at best, duplicitous (contradictory doubleness of thought, speech or action).

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Possibly, the citizens of the US should be more worried about what will happen after a nuclear war than the actual war itself. The war will probably result in the loss of half to two-thirds of the population of the United States, sooner or later. Since the US has a lot of tornados, let's assume one-half out right in the first few months following the nuclear exchange. They will either be immediate casualties or die from radiation sickness. The rest of this story is about what might happen afterwards, when the countries of the world rush to the United States and China to help us pick up the pieces.

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It took about 3 weeks to get enough of the weather radio stations up and running for the President to address the country.

*My fellow Americans,*

*The attack that the United States experienced was at the hands of the Chinese government in their former capitol of Beijing. Your government has survived and effective immediately the United States will be under martial law with a dusk to dawn curfew. Any members of the United States Reserve military forces or the state National Guards are ordered to report to their posts, stations or bases, if possible.*

*Your government has been in contract with the governments of Canada, Mexico and Great Britain and aid for both our country and China is forthcoming. FEMA will begin organizing camps for those members of our population that have survived. However, our resources will be stretched to the limit and I am advising you not to report to the camp established in your area if you do not require assistance. If you have extra supplies, please share them with your neighbors.*

*At this early stage of our recovery, you can expect looting. Looters will be shot on sight. I'm sorry, but I don't see that I have any other choice in this matter. It is far too early to estimate our casualties. We expect them to run at least 50% and possibly as high as 67%.*

*The United Nations is reforming in The Hague, Netherlands and additional aid will be forthcoming from the world at large through the auspices of the UN. Presently Secretary Rice is in The Hague and is discussing the conditions that the UN may wish to attach to that aid. The United States needs the aid, but not at any price. I shall not allow the other nations of the world to dictate our form of government.*

*I shall only remain in power for another year, however during that year I will do everything possible to hand a functioning country over to my successor. Stay tuned to the station you are listening to for further information.*

*God Bless America.*

The President of the United States hadn't revealed where he was located during his speech. While many would assume he was in Mt. Weather, he had been on a tour of military installations when the balloon had gone up and was staying at the ultra-secure facility at Holloman AFB.

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The following Executive Orders are associated with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that would suspend the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. These Executive Orders have been on record for nearly 30 years and could be enacted by the stroke of a Presidential pen:

EXECUTIVE ORDER 10990 allows the government to take over all modes of transportation and control of highways and seaports.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 10995 allows the government to seize and control the communication media.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 10997 allows the government to take over all electrical power, gas, petroleum, fuels and minerals.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 10998 allows the government to seize all means of transportation, including personal cars, trucks or vehicles of any kind and total control over all highways, seaports, and waterways.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 10999 allows the government to take over all food resources and farms.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 11000 allows the government to mobilize civilians into work brigades under government supervision.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 11001 allows the government to take over all health, education and welfare functions.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 11002 designates the Postmaster General to operate a national registration of all persons.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 11003 allows the government to take over all airports and aircraft, including commercial aircraft.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 11004 allows the Housing and Finance Authority to relocate communities, build new housing with public funds, designate areas to be abandoned, and establish new locations for populations.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 11005 allows the government to take over railroads, inland waterways and public storage facilities.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 11051 specifies the responsibility of the Office of Emergency Planning and gives authorization to put all Executive Orders into effect in times of increased international tensions and economic or financial crisis.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 11310 grants authority to the Department of Justice to enforce the plans set out in Executive Orders, to institute industrial support, to establish judicial and legislative liaison, to control all aliens, to operate penal and correctional institutions, and to advise and assist the President.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 11049 assigns emergency preparedness function to federal departments and agencies, consolidating 21 operative Executive Orders issued over a fifteen-year period.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 11921 allows the Federal Emergency Preparedness Agency to develop plans to establish control over the mechanisms of production and distribution, of energy sources, wages, salaries, credit and the flow of money in US financial institution in any undefined national emergency. It also provides that when the President declares a state of emergency, Congress cannot review the action for six months. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has broad powers in every aspect of the nation. General Frank Salzedo, chief of FEMA's Civil Security Division stated in a 1983 conference that he saw FEMA's role as a "new frontier in the protection of individual and governmental leaders from assassination, and of civil and military installations from sabotage and/or attack, as well as prevention of dissident groups from gaining access to US opinion, or a global audience in times of crisis." FEMA's powers were consolidated by President Carter to incorporate the:



National Security Act of 1947 allows for the strategic relocation of industries, services, government and other essential economic activities, and to rationalize the requirements for manpower, resources and production facilities.

1950 Defense Production Act gives the President sweeping powers over all aspects of the economy.

Act of August 29, 1916 authorizes the Secretary of the Army, in time of war, to take possession of any transportation system for transporting troops, material, or any other purpose related to the emergency.

International Emergency Economic Powers Act enables the President to seize the property of a foreign country or national. These powers were transferred to FEMA in a sweeping consolidation in 1979.

## The Cold War – Chapter 9 – The Strings

You don't imagine that the world would rush to the aid of the United States or China without attaching a few strings do you? If you do, I suggest that you think again. The strings turned out to look more like ropes and the President was forced to decline the offer of aid from the UN. To put a point on the end of his sentence, he instructed Condi to inform the UN that the US was withdrawing as a member of that august body. At the moment, he told her; the US had nothing to spare, especially not what remained of its military might.

There are friends and there are allies. Webster's Dictionary defines an ally as: 1. to unite or form a connection between (associate); and, 2. to connect or form a relation between (relate). The same dictionary defines a friend as: 1. a. one attached to another by affection or esteem; b. acquaintance; 2. a. one who is not hostile; b. one that is of the same nation, party, or group; 3. one that favors or promotes something; 4. Paramour; and 5. (Capitalized) a member of a Christian sect that stresses Inner Light, rejects sacraments and an ordained ministry, and war (Quakers). Given that set of definitions, I think maybe a friend is better than an ally, but that's just one person's personal opinion.

America's roots are in England or the British Isles or wherever. We could always count on England, even if the people were angry at the United States. We were *two peoples separated by a common language*, according to George Bernard Shaw. *You start out happy that you have no hips or boobs. All of a sudden you get them, and it feels sloppy. Then just when you start liking them, they start drooping.* (Cindy Crawford) *There are a lot of women who live with pot-bellied pigs.* (Catherine Zeta Jones)

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The string that stuck in George's craw was the UN insistence of that America disarm. There were a lot of firearms in the hands of the American public. Some Americans might hand over their weapons, BUT there were many who would not. And, that was something that the President was absolutely certain of. If provoked, the citizens of the country would turn the disaster into another Civil War. If FEMA pressed the public too hard, the President was equally certain that the same thing would happen. Dick Cheney had addressed the Annual Meeting of the NRA in 2004 and given the membership certain assurances. The membership had given the Vice-President some assurances too. While the NRA didn't speak for more than 1% of the American population, based on its membership, it was the most vocal 1%.

As of 1996, it was estimated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms that there are about 239 million guns in the United States, well over 86 million of which are handguns. Some estimates place the number of privately owned firearms nearer 300 million.

How about this article published in the San Bernardino County Sun on May 5, 2005:

The left-leaning media like to point out that their polls show that even gun owners support *sensible gun legislation*. The problem is simply that is an oxymoron, at least with some in our state legislature.

Here are two examples of gun control bills that are just plain ignorant, and what is most frightening is that both of them are moving toward floor votes in their respective houses. SB 357, obviously named after the magnum handgun round in a clever display of whit by the bill's author Joseph Dunn, D-Garden Grove, would mandate that all handgun ammunition have matching serial numbers on each bullet and bullet casing so ammunition used in crimes can be traced back to the original purchasers.

Now, that sounds brilliant on first reading, doesn't it?

A little critical thinking, however, makes you wonder. Never mind the astronomical costs involved making such ammunition, or that it would create a monopoly for one company that has been touting its ability to make such ammo while supporting the legislation. Never mind the record-keeping nightmare that it would create. If it would help solve crimes, gun owners would support the idea. But the reality is that it wouldn't help solve crimes, and it could implicate innocent people.

What's to keep crooks from mixing ammunition between different boxes of ammunition so serial numbers from the sold lot point to a different person than the one who created the crime?

Would crooks even buy ammunition in California or simply have fellow criminals pick up ammo in Las Vegas, or would it merely create a black-market for older, unmarked ammo?

The reality is that it would create as many problems as it might solve, confusing juries in serious criminal cases with questions about otherwise obvious guilt or innocence because the ammo didn't match the suspect or it implicated someone with a rock-solid alibi.

AB 352 is a similar bill by Paul Koretz, D-West Hollywood, only this legislation would mandate that all handguns have chambers micro-etched with the make, model and serial number of the gun so that this information is transferred to the cartridge casing when the gun is fired.

The theory here is similar to SB 357: crime scene investigators find a casing and know exactly which gun fired it. Since the bill would also create a registry of all these guns, they could go right to the registered owner and arrest him.

Since most guns used in crimes are stolen, this would not be a help at all. It would be a snap to polish out the etching. It would make the chamber rough, making the gun less safe, probably causing it to jam occasionally, especially if the gun were dirty. And how about taking brass that was fired in one gun, reloading it, and then shooting in an older

gun without the fingerprint? Now you've left brass at a crime scene that points investigators the wrong direction.

Again, never mind that registration is expressly forbidden by federal law or the costs involved in making guns with this feature or the awful bureaucracy this would create. It's a failure in crime control. Massachusetts had a similar law pass several years ago, and the justice department there is recommending it be scrapped because it has cost taxpayers an immense amount of money to run and did nothing to help solve crime. Zero.

It turns out that criminals who are stupid enough to be caught by the benefits either of these bills provide, usually leave a pile of other evidence that will convict them. Legislators know this legislation is stupid, but it's a back door way to make gun ownership excessively expensive and onerous. They don't want you and me to have firearms at all.

The Chairman of the US House Committee on Armed Services, Duncan Hunter, sent a letter to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger urging him to oppose SB 357 (Bullet Serialization) on the grounds that it would harm our national and homeland security.

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Blair had been elected to a 3<sup>rd</sup> term back in 2005 and he had gathered his forces and had sent them to the US when Bush had given an all clear on the radiation levels. The new President of Mexico, Roberto Madrazo was ready with aid and troops, too. Canada had been dealing with the problem from the outset because cities like Windsor and Vancouver had received fallout.

Groom Lake and Rogers Lake looked like parking lots with all of the bombers and fighters moved to those two locations. The Nighthawks had moved from Holloman to Area 51 and many of the other fighters had moved to Rogers. It had been a challenge and heartbreaking for the pilots ferrying their aircraft to alternate locations. They had witnessed several of the Chinese missile strikes and saw their country being destroyed before their eyes. There weren't enough tankers to refuel all of the aircraft being moved and some had to land at commercial airports and refuel with Jet fuel A.

Other military units had dispersed according to long established plans and most made it through the attack. The President had them remain under cover until the radiation levels were something they could cope with MOPPED up to level 4. In mid-October, much of the country is cold and some parts of the country even have snow on the ground. MOPP level 4 wasn't the problem it had been in Iraq. A week before the President's announcement, the troops were already out there effecting rescues. In areas where trouble was expected, they put on a show of force with their Bradley's and Abrams tanks. Order prevailed in most locations and looters were shot in others.

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Ron had finally figured out the 10-meter radio and checked in with Gar-Bear. Everyone in Cedar Hill was fine. He'd had trouble assembling his antenna or he'd have been on the air earlier. They were overcrowded in New Mexico but some of the kids had moved in with Robert. Neither man had any idea what had happened to Clarence because Birmingham had probably taken a strike. It was nothing like the stories Gary had written. Both men had moved to the nether reaches of the country just in time. They discussed getting together but dismissed the idea as being impractical.

It didn't take the Manager of the Wal-Mart store very long to show up at Derek's wanting to know what he had taken and suggesting strongly that payment was in order. Derek took him over to his Dad's and Gary produced the list. He offered to pay for everything with a check drawn on the Trust fund account up in Iowa. Under the circumstances, the Manager didn't want to take an out-of-town check. Neither did the bank in Flippin, but they didn't really have a choice. Gary wrote a check on Iowa and deposited it in their Flippin account and wrote a check on the Flippin account to pay Wal-Mart. The Manager agreed to hold the check for a day and told Derek to get to work because they were shorthanded. He was so happy to be reimbursed for the things they had taken; all of the paperwork on the weapons had gotten overlooked. Derek had a decision to make and since the President had only told the Guard and Reserve to report in if they could, he decided that, for a change, he couldn't.

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President Bush got another offer of aid. The Russians couldn't afford to provide aid, per se, but they could provide soldiers and civilians to assist with the cleanup. There were no strings attached and Bush gratefully accepted the offer. Maybe it was in Russia's vested interest to help the US. The United States bought a lot of their products, guns and ammo to name a few, and had provided homes for many of their criminals. More than that, the US had taken care of a couple of thorns in Moscow's side, China and North Korea.

Was it possible that Russia had another motive in mind? The US had finally demonstrated a willingness to use its nuclear arsenal. Number wise, the Russians had more nuclear weapons on hand than the United States. However the US had the delivery systems and they had been demonstrated. They worked very well indeed. The President had rescinded the order for the SSBN's to launch their missiles when it was apparent that the Peacekeepers and Minuteman III missiles had done their job. The US still had 14x24 (minus 1) missiles roaming the high seas, plus 2 of the SSGN's. India and Pakistan were engaged in peace talks. Israel was on full alert and had fighters standing by with nuclear weapons in case Iran got any ideas.

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*My fellow Americans,*

*I have an update on the situation in this country. All of the state capitals and most of our major cities were hit in the nuclear exchange. The estimates of the loss of life remain unchanged, but at the moment, they are only estimates. Canada, Mexico and Great Britain have offered aid, as has Australia. I have accepted their offers and an offer from Russia for relief workers. If you hear someone speaking Russian, please don't shoot them, they are here to help.*

*The United States retains its ability to react to any other threats against this great country of ours. In my considered judgment, we do not face any other threats. There are no winners in a nuclear exchange. People have survived in all of the countries involved including North Korea, China and the United States of America. Life as we know it will never be the same, but we will recover. The FEMA camps have been established for those who need them. If your homes are habitable and you have sufficient resources, please remain there. Efforts are already underway to reestablish supply chains, but we expect temporary shortages in the immediate future.*

*The country will remain under martial law for the foreseeable future. Do not attempt to take the law into your own hands. If you observe looting, contact the nearest law enforcement officer to handle the situation. There will be additional announcements in the coming days.*

*God Bless America.*

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In order for the defense system of any country to function, the governments have had to make an assumption. They have had to assume that when called upon to do so, the men in the loop would push the button. The dangers of going to a fully automated system were clearly demonstrated in the movie titled, *War Games*. There were probably other movies with the same theme, (*The Forbin Project*, *Terminator*) I know there were more, but I don't remember the titles. *War Games* was probably the most recent. One thing that Americans who had the responsibility of activating the weapons have always had was that the US would never make a first strike and anything they did was in retaliation. In this story, North Korea began fueling its nuclear missiles and the US responded with a single Trident II D-5 from a boomer. In this story, the Red Chinese attacked Taiwan and the US responded with nuclear cruise missiles.

It can't happen, can it? Have you seen the movie, *The Bedford Incident*? How about *By Dawn's Early Light*? Richard Widmark had James MacArthur so wound up he launched an RUR-5 ASROC at a Russian sub and the skipper of the boat responded with a snap shot of a nuclear torpedo. In the latter movie, Powers Boothe refused to stop his mission to deliver a nuclear bomb with a B-52.

Of that movie, one critic said, "Okay first of all this is just like *Dr. Strangelove* and even more like *Fail Safe*. Both better than *By Dawn's Early Light*. Several things would have never really happened. If space command ever detected missiles they would launch the

bombers for survivability so they would have never been caught on the ground. The President would not have been allowed to stay at the White House for a minute. The Russian President would not have used the old Teletype communications system. They have a new computerized version. That's all I have to say. It was the worst movie I have ever seen." It is so easy to criticize movies, most people were scared shitless by the movie. James Earl Jones had been in both *Dr. Strangelove* and *By Dawn's Early Light*.

I disagree with the critic, but I was stationed at Edwards during the Cuban Missile Crisis, so I don't know Shoe polish from Shinola. A B-47 with 2 nuclear bombs aboard looks just like a B-47 without 2 nuclear bombs aboard. I wonder where those bombers were going; they didn't really have legs. The only difference is the guards and the dogs.

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Edwards had all of the dud aircraft like the B-57 & B-58. The base was even named after a pilot who was killed flying another dud, the YB-49. In May 1948, Capt. Glen W. Edwards was selected to join the team of test pilots and engineers at Muroc who were then evaluating the Northrop YB-49, the all-jet version of the exotic flying wing bomber. After his first few flights, he was not favorably impressed, confiding to his diary that it was *the darndest airplane I've ever tried to do anything with. Quite uncontrollable at times*. Then, on June 5, 1948, he was flying as co-pilot with Maj. Daniel Forbes when the airplane departed from controlled flight and broke apart in the sky northwest of the base. All five crewmembers were lost. Perhaps it is fair to say that Northrop's design concepts were solid, but the means to implement them were still several decades away. The YB-49 was simply a generation ahead of its time. The YB-49 was the "wrong plane at the wrong time," getting trapped in the transition between propeller-driven and jet-powered aircraft. How come they named an Air Force Base after a Captain and not a General? *Gutsiest move I ever saw, Mav*.

The first atomic bomb that was ever dropped was the Little Boy on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. Nagasaki was bombed with Fat Man on August 9, 1945. Have you ever asked yourself what would have happened if Japan hadn't surrendered? I was curious about that and found an answer. The US had built several (6) of the Fat Man bombs and except for the plutonium core they were ready to go. It doesn't answer the question, but it sort of gives you a hint.

Concurrent with the preparations for the Trinity test, preparations were being made for the delivery of operational atomic weapons to Tinian Island in the Pacific for use against Japan at the earliest possible date.

Two weapon designs were available for use – the gun assembly Little Boy bomb that used uranium highly enriched in U-235, and the implosion assembly Fat Man that used plutonium.

After the detonation of the first plutonium bomb core in the Trinity test, the next weapon that was available was the completed Little Boy. It was this weapon that was dropped

on Hiroshima. Another Little Boy weapon would not have been ready for months, for this reason only one Little Boy unit was prepared. In contrast many Fat Man bomb assemblies were on hand (without plutonium), and the actual *Fat Man bomb* delivered against Japan only existed when assembly of the Fat Man unit with the plutonium core was completed shortly before the mission.

I wonder if they would have saved Tokyo for bomb number 7? They couldn't really bomb Tokyo because that's where the Emperor of Japan was and it was the Emperor who needed to surrender. You may have seen the TV movie about the last minute conspiracy to prevent him from surrendering. Hirohito surrendered on August 15, 1945 and Japan signed the documents of surrender on September 2, 1945 aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. What would have happened if the conspirators had succeeded or Hirohito had decided not to surrender?

History reveals that Stalin wanted his own atom bomb and by 1949, the Soviet Union had tested their first atomic bomb. After the bombing of Nagasaki, no nuclear weapons were ever fired in anger, except in the movies. And then I came along and the US made the second first strike in history. Even if China only had 400 nuclear warheads or bombs, they made the most of them. The United States had sent all 50 Peacekeepers and 100 of the MIRV'd Minuteman III missiles back to China, a total of 800 warheads.

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"You can go back to work if you need to, but you keep that WOP pistol in your glove box and the shotgun behind your seat," Gary suggested. "You'd better fix yourself up a BOB, too."

"Is this where Geraldo screams *The Russians are coming?*" Derek laughed.

"Nah, I already used that bit in three stories," Gary confided. "I wish I could see 600-yards."

"I'm only a mile from home, I won't need a BOB."

"Вы говорите русского."

"Немного. Велемудро изучить дороги одних враждебных. Вы не думаете?"

"I agree, but I don't speak Russian; that was a line out of *Red October*."

"So was my reply, Dad."

"I'm glad you moved to Flippin, Derek. If we were still in California, we'd be on our way to Barstow trying to get weapons to defend the Moon Shadows housing tract."



"I sure hated selling Mom's house, but it's pretty safe down in these mountains," Derek agreed.

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David found a job as a locksmith in Mountain Home. Amy went to the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville to see about transferring her law school credits from California to Arkansas. The University hadn't resumed classes and she was told that they'd work on the paperwork, but she'd have to wait. Amy stayed with Sharon and Gary and Damon and his family moved in with Derek and Mary. The move from Palmdale to Flippin hadn't changed everything. At least Sharon could hide out in the basement when Audrey and Udell, Jr. got unruly. Gary practically lived in the basement, he liked the peace and quiet and he wanted to be near the radio in case Ron called again.

If you can remember how long it took to clean up lower Manhattan after 9/11 think about it and multiply the problem by at least 1,000. Also consider that American had lost a lot of people in the exchange. It appeared that it would take about 3 years just to clean up the mess the US cities were in. Some cities had to be abandoned, for a while at least, they were simply too hot to demolish. Rebuilding would take longer, but with half the population gone, why bother?

Electricity and natural gas wouldn't be restored to Flippin for at least a year. A 7kw portable generator isn't intended to run that long and they needed to come up with alternatives to keep Derek's home and spare house powered. Pioneer Propane could provide the fuel to keep Gary and Sharon up and running and 500-gallon tanks for Derek. They had a large inventory of propane and more was available. The problem was finding a residential standby generator system or 2. The second problem was money. It took the government 6 months to straighten out a system whereby they could pay the Social Security payments. The good news was that it resulted in a large check to catch up 6 months' worth of missed payments. That solved the problem of having enough money to buy one residential standby system and only left Gary and Derek with the problem of finding one.

They finally located a dealer in Evening Shade, AR, northeast of Mountain Home, Ozark Power Company. They didn't have any of the Onan generators but they did have the Kohler model 12RES-LP generators and they had them for \$4,000 plus tax, delivery and installation. The transfer switches were optional. Colorado Standby Power has them for less, but they were in Colorado. The Kohler unit put out about 65 amps. They were also field convertible between natural gas and LP/Propane. That's something every homeowner should have. They were heavy-duty units that could run a very long time with nominal servicing. Fat cats could put in a Kohler 30RES with ran on both LP and Natural Gas. They were expensive at \$13,000, but you could always get a home improvement loan to install one. They included a built in LP regulator and were switch convertible between Natural gas and LP. It was the second unit the dealer had in stock. Gary used the radio in his truck to contact the Shelter and explained the problem. Sharon told Gary to put a down payment on the 30RES and they'd figure out something.

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Would America ever be the same? No! The United States changed after 9/11 and many argued the changes weren't necessarily for the better. Osama bin Laden had burst America's bubble. We should have known back in 1993 when terrorists attacked the WTC the first time. Most Americans didn't get the message. In the run up to Y2k, a lot of Americans got concerned because the datafields in databases weren't big enough and it might bring our computer systems down. But, ask yourselves how many people put in safe rooms and standby power after Hurricane Andrew?

Andrew was a small and ferocious Cape Verde hurricane that wrought unprecedented economic devastation along a path through the northwestern Bahamas, the southern Florida peninsula, and south-central Louisiana. Damage in the United States was estimated to be near 25 billion, making Andrew the most expensive natural disaster in US history. Andrew was only a Category 4 on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale 1-5 rating. The fact that no lives were lost in the United States due to storm surge is viewed as a fortunate aberration. Andrew reportedly destroyed 25,524 homes and damaged 101,241 others. The Dade County Grand Jury reported that ninety percent of all mobile homes in south Dade County were totally destroyed. In Homestead, more than 99% (1167 of 1176) of all mobile homes were completely destroyed.

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Americans kept telling themselves, it can't happen here. They were about as wrong as a group of people could possibly be. The Cold War was well and truly over, but it ended with a great big bang. About 400 of them to be specific. The Squirrels were prepared and they survived. Lots of other people weren't and they didn't, even though they were far away enough from the targets of the Chinese missiles they could have. Their problem was that they weren't prepared and guns were such nasty things.

## The Cold War – Chapter 10 – After the Recovery

Ron finally got word from Clarence. He'd been away from home when the attack came and although Shirley and he had lost their home, they'd managed to survive. Ron set up a conference call with Gary and The Three Amigos decided to have a reunion. The reunion would take place in Flippin because it was in the middle. They agreed to meet on Gary's birthday, March 23, 2009. Ron said he had something that he wanted to talk to them about.

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March 23, 2009, Flippin, AR...

"God you look old," Gary told Ron.

"You aren't any spring chicken yourself, partner."

"Clarence, you look like you just keep getting younger, what's your secret?"

"We age differently than you white boys Gary. Inside we're just as old, but unless we get grey hair, it doesn't really show."

"I thought I'd heard all the BPT's I was ever going to hear, but that's a new one."

"I lost my bugle in the attack," Clarence lamented.

"Probably lost your uniform too, huh?" Ron asked.

"Lost the whole kit and caboodle, Ron."

"The doctor says that I need another bypass," Ron announced.

"Is that why you wanted the meeting?" Gary asked.

"Nah, I wanted the meeting to have a reunion and to talk about something I ran into a while back," Ron explained. "The operation isn't as big a deal as it used to be and maybe I can go a while without more of the angioplasties."

"When did you have your first bypass, Ron?" Clarence asked.

"1992, it's time and then some Clarence."

"I had mine in 2004, I suppose I have a while to go, huh?"

“They seem to be averaging about 15 years, give or take. Whatever, this will be my last one. Anyway the reason I wanted to talk with you guy was that I stumbled onto a collection of brand new M14 rifles. They’re the full-auto variety.”

“I thought McNamara had all of them destroyed,” Gary responded.

“He must have missed a case. Anyway, I remember you telling me that they weren’t worth a crap on full-auto. Didn’t you also tell me something about an Italian weapon based on the Garand that was full auto and had something that allowed it to be used in the full-auto mode?”

“I got a bunch of emails from a squirrel named BM59\_Fan. He talked at length about the Italian BM-59. He said *the tri-compensator for the BM59 is 22mm in diameter, the standard internal ID for a NATO Rifle Grenade. It is a combo Flashhider, Muzzle Brake/Muzzle Rise Limiter, and Grenade Launcher. It is attached, and serves the same purpose, as the Garand Gas Cylinder Lock. In other words it keeps the Gas Cylinder from moving forward or backwards on the barrel. The stripper clip guide on the top of the receiver accepts standard M14, 5 round stripper clips. I had the opportunity to shoot a BM59 Ital, and FN-FAL in 7.62 NATO and an M-1918A2 BAR re-chambered in 7.65 Argentine all in full auto... The BM59 was completely controllable in full auto and a joy to shoot, the tri-comp is real good, and the geometry of the weapon is also good. The FN-FAL was a real bitch to shoot full auto it took all I could do to keep it on target. The BAR was a piece of cake and a joy to shoot and if anything is too accurate.*

“That’s what I remember, Gar-Bear. So where could we get some of the tri-comps to modify those M-14 rifles?”

“Springfield Armory bought most or all the Beretta’s tooling equipment. They manufactured BM-59’s for a while. My friend gave me a website to go to for spare parts for the BM-59. I suppose I could start there. Were the M14’s expensive?”

“You might say they were a steal,” Ron replied. “What else did your friend tell you?”

“I had the impression, maybe wrong, that the tri-comp could be modified or manufactured to use on the M-14/M1A rifle.”

“In and of themselves, the tri-comp wouldn’t be anything more than a weapon part, would they?” Ron continued.

“I can’t see why they would be partner,” Gary replied. “Of course they haven’t manufactured those rifle grenades for quite a while so I doubt we’d be able to get those.”

“I’m not interested in rifle grenades, Gar-Bear, but would that tri-comp make a fully automatic M-14 controllable?”

“That was my impression. Should we try and buy one and see if it can be adapted to the M-14’s?”

“If you’ll buy one and I can get some machinist to adapt it to the M-14’s, you can each have 4 fully automatic M-14’s for the price of the tri-comp’s,” Ron replied.

“It would be nice to have drum magazines if we’re going to have full-auto M-14’s,” Gary suggested.

“That might be a horse of a different color. I have to see what I can do. The 100-round Beta-C magazines were 5.56, weren’t they?”

“Yes, but the Russians and the Chinese had 75-round drum magazines in the 7.62x39mm cartridge for the AK-47.”

“Seventy-five rounds of 7.62 would be pretty heavy,” Clarence pointed out.

“True, but if we could get someone to make a 7.62x51mm 75-round drum, we’d have a rifle as good as a BAR with enough ammo to make a difference,” Gary suggested.

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Ron decided to take the bull by the horns and do the whole project himself. Gary gave him the web address of the company that sold the BM-59 parts and told Ron just to search what was left of the web for a Russian or Chinese magazine. The Chinese magazine was easier to reload because it had a hinged plate. You loaded the magazine and when you were ready to shoot, you wound up the spring. You had what the US military wanted when they developed the SAW version of the M-14. Besides, if they really needed grenades, they had their M16’s.

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“Hey uglier than me,” Ron laughed.

“What?”

“I got the tri-comps on the rifles and they had a Beta C Mag for the M1A.”

“What about controlling the rifle?”

“Every bit as good as an M16.”

“How expensive are those tri-comps?”

“He made them from scratch so \$100 apiece. But, they include the bipod and don’t include the sight that turns off the gas cylinder.”

“What about the drums? How expensive are they going to be?”

“More than that Chinese 75-round drum I bought off the Internet. \$250 each if I buy enough.”

“What’s enough?”

“100.”

“Jeezus, that 25 grand.”

“Yeah, I know, but I thought I’d get 120 and sell you guys each 40 magazines and the tri-comp. You’re looking at \$1,600 per weapon.”

“That’s \$6,400, partner.”

“You’re getting the rifles for free, what are you bitching about?”

“I don’t know if I have that kind of money lying around, Ron.”

“Sure you do, do you still have the pre-65 silver coins?”

“Never needed to spend it, of course I do.”

“Have you seen the price of silver lately?”

“Un-un, what’s it going for?”

“\$20 an ounce.”

“That’s less than one bag of silver coins.”

“Good investment wasn’t it?”

“What’s the price of gold?”

“About \$2,000 an ounce.”

“A hundred to one? No way! Silver is either forty or gold is a grand. Why don’t you just give us the guns?”

“Hey, I’m up to my butt in alligators with Linda already. No way. I figured you’d be happy that I did the whole project on my own.”

"I am and we bought \$2,000 face value of the coins so we have about 1,430 ounces of silver. OK, I'll take my 4 at forty an ounce for silver. Are you going to contact Clarence and set up another reunion?"

"I sure as hell ain't shipping the rifles. I'd go to jail forever, if I get caught."

"Sure, when?"

"I have to go to the doctor in 4 weeks for a follow-up to my heart surgery. How about the week after?"

"Works for me, how are you feeling?"

"You'd think as many times as they've cut into me that I be used to it, but I'm not. I have a lot of pain this time."

"Do you need some Vicodin?"

"I asked the doctor for some be he wouldn't let me have it. How expensive is it?"

"\$20 a hundred. I'll give you a bottle of Norco and fill up your gas tank for delivering the guns."

"See you in 5 weeks. Ciao."

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"How are you Clarence?" Gary asked.

"Fine. I got me a new bugle and another 10th Calvary uniform. The insurance company finally paid on our house."

"Are you going to build a new home?"

"Not in Birmingham. How much does land cost around here?"

"Actually, it's pretty cheap. Thinking of moving to Flippin?"

"How much fallout did you get?"

"Plenty. I thought that we would be safe here, but I looked at the wrong map."

"But there are no targets near here, right?"

"Right. We had time to go shopping before the fallout started."

“You have all of your kids in the area, too. Am I right?”

“David and Lorrie live in Derek’s spare house and pay him \$250 a month in rent. David works as a locksmith in Mountain Home. Amy and the kids live with us, again. She’s going to school at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. Derek works for Wal-Mart.”

“My boys survived in Palmdale, but I’m thinking they’d be better off in Arkansas with Shirley and me.”

“We’ll have to ask Ron what his kids ended up doing. Ft. Smith took a hit and wiped out Brenda and Jennifer’s homes. Kevin died, you know.”

“I heard. Couldn’t get his insulin or something?”

“I guess. You’ll have to talk to Derek about whether or not there are jobs for your boys.”

The following day...

“What held you up, Ronald?”

“Linda had to drive. She’s even slower than I am. Can I have the Norco now? I asked the doc again last week and he still said no.”

“Here take 3 bottles, you need it worse than I do. Besides, we picked up a few drugs when we went to Wal-Mart. Clarence, do you need any pain pills or anything?”

“Nope. You hang on to it in case I do.”

“How’s he going to get them to you in Birmingham?” Ron asked.

“I’m thinking about moving to Flippin.”

“Really? I still have John, Brenda, Jennifer and Lydia’s sister living in Cedar Hill.”

“They still have the rental building?”

“It got nuked. They got one hell of an insurance settlement after they got the lawyers involved. Clarence, can you get the rifles and magazines out of my car?”

“I didn’t buy any silver coins, Ron. I don’t know how I’m going to pay you for 4 of those rifles and magazines. I need to hang on to my money until Shirley and I build a new home.”

“I’ll take all 8 units for now, Ron. It will still be less than \$1,000 face in silver and once Clarence gets moved, he can buy them from me,” Gary suggested.



"I really want the rifles, but until I see how much a home costs, I don't want to tie up my money in guns. Where can we get a generator?"

"All the guy in Evening Shade had left was a Kohler 12RES, Clarence. They run about \$4,000," Gary explained.

"Natural gas or propane?"

"Yes, both."

"You see what I mean, Ron. If I put in a shelter like Gary has and add a generator, God only knows how much a house will cost."

"Derek only has 2 of the 500-gallon propane tanks, you know. The largest that Pioneer Propane will put in are the 1,100-gallon tanks so Sharon and I had to buy our own."

"How big are his generators?"

"He put in 2 of the Kohler model 12RES-LP generators. The transfer switches were optional so he didn't get them, yet."

"Why didn't he buy the Kohler 30RES?"

"Money. The 12RES were \$4,000 each."

"See, that's what I mean Ron, I'm just going to have to wait on the M-14 rifles. What model were they anyway?"

"M14E2."

"With the pistol grips?" Gary asked.

"Right," Ron replied.

"And you test fired the rifle, right? No unmanageable muzzle climb?"

"Right again."

"The drum feed every round? No stoppages?"

"I only fired a case of ammo, but I didn't have any."

"Probably weights as much as a BAR, huh?"

"With a 100-round drum, it's pretty dang close."

“Wee doggie, we’re in business. I’ll take all 8 and if Clarence doesn’t want his later, I’ll keep them.”

“These aren’t for carrying around you know,” Ron pointed out. “They’re way too heavy for old farts like us.”

“I got 3 of the tri-comps but couldn’t make them work. The conclusion was *no way Jose*. David has 4 boys, Ron. They’re young and healthy. I’ll load them down pretty good.”

“Do you mind if I ask who you intend to shoot with a latter day BAR?” Clarence asked.

“Anyone who deserves shooting, Clarence.”

“Remind me to buy a piece of property out of range of your new toys,” Clarence chuckled. “You still have the Vaqueros?”

“Yep. Original models built on the Blackhawk frame. They’ll shoot anything including Buffalo Bore.”

“I was going to demonstrate my new bugle, but never mind.”

“Did you ever learn to blow anything besides the charge?”

“I’ve got Boots and Saddles down pretty good,” Clarence replied. “And I learned Taps.”

“Ok, you can do my funeral.”

“What funeral?” Ron asked.

“The one they’re going to have for me when Sharon finds out I bought 8 latter BAR rifles,” Gary laughed.

“She still giving you a hard time over buying guns?”

“Not lately, I haven’t bought any. We got some weapons for David and his boys at Wal-Mart.”

“Ever shoot them?”

“Only on the range, but you never know what’s going to happen.”

Clarence snuck a peek at the sky.

“Hey, I was just looking at these bottles of Norco. They’re all expired.”

“Relax, Ronald, they’ll give you a really good buzz. Tylenol and Hydrocodone don’t ever get so old they don’t work. I can give you some that expired more recently, if you prefer.”

“How many do you have?” Ron asked.

“Have of what? Tablets of Vicodin, bottles of Vicodin, bottles of Norco or tablets of Xanax?”

“Yes.”

“Ten bottles of Vicodin, which is 1,000 tablets, 12 bottles of Norco, which is 1,200 tablets and 2,000 tablets of Xanax.”

“You’re a regular junkie.”

“I take one Xanax a day and haven’t had any Vicodin for 4-5 years. I figured that Sharon could sell them all off after she kills me and pay for a pretty nice funeral.”

“On second thought, leave the guns in my trunk for now, Clarence. We’ll get them out after Sharon goes to bed.” Ron suggested.

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Clarence and Shirley went lot hunting the following day and found a nice lot on the other side of town from Gary and Sharon’s. Nobody seemed too anxious to leave so The Three Amigos found a meeting and sat in for a few. Clarence got Gary’s blueprints for their house and after Ron returned to New Mexico and hired a contractor to duplicate the house with a couple of exceptions. Clarence was putting in the Kohler 30RES and had everything put into his basement before they closed it over. It turned out that Clarence liked to fish as much as Gary did.

“I could only get a 3,300-gallon propane tank,” Clarence told Gary.

“You can get bigger tanks, but they’ll cost you an arm and a leg, partner. They’re pretty heavy and the freight is prohibitive. 3,000-gallons should tide you over if we have another emergency.”

“We’re still cleaning up from the last one.”

“Did you lose everything in the war or did you manage to save a few things?”

“We lost everything except the clothes in our suitcases and my guns,” Clarence replied. “I never went anywhere without our BOB’s and guns.”

“Did you talk to Derek about finding jobs for your boys?”

“They can build boats or work at Wal-Mart, I guess,” Clarence replied.

“They could move to Little Rock. I hear that they’ve come a long way towards having the city rebuilt.”

“How far is it to Little Rock?”

“Maybe 3 hours by car. It’s highway 65 most of the way. It’s only 136 miles, but 65 isn’t the best road, you know.”

“We only built a 2 bedroom house. They wouldn’t have anywhere to stay if they both came to visit.”

“You’re going to put in a garage, aren’t you?”

“Of course, why?”

“Make it 2 stories and put living quarters over the garage.”

“That would be cheaper than tacking on an addition. Sure, why not?”

“Are you going to buy the M14 rifles?”

“I think so. I’m still waiting to see how Shirley and I come out on money.”

“If it will help, I was thinking about buying an M1A back when we moved here and I got one hell of a deal on Korean or Chinese 20-round M-14 magazines from Eric the Am-moman.”

“You don’t have an M1A, do you?”

“I got the cart before the horse and bought 80 magazines so I’ll sell half of the magazines to you for just what I paid for them, \$11 each.”

“I’d have both assault rifles and machine guns?”

“Depending on which magazine you used, yes.”

“Deal.”

## The Cold War – Chapter 11 – Waiting

When Clarence gave Gary the \$6,840 for the 4 rifles and the 40 20-round magazines, Gary took a chance and tried to contact Eric the Ammoman in New Jersey. He got lucky twice. First he was able to contact the business and second, they had a lot of Lake City 7.62x51mm ammo on hand. The price was \$239 for 1,000-rounds and Eric was offering free shipping. Gary thought the price was a little steep and he said so. The guy on the other end of the phone asked how much ammo Gary wanted and his reply was, "All I can get for \$6,840". They agreed on 35 cases shipped by freight instead of the more expensive carrier they usually used. It worked out to \$195 and change per case. With the 15,000 rounds that Derek and Gary already had, they now had 50,000-rounds and could fight a couple of wars.

Clarence bought 12 cases of the ammo, 3 per rifle, leaving Gary and Derek with 38,000-rounds between the 4 M14, modified rifles. Not a lot of ammo per rifle, but hopefully enough. They didn't know what they were waiting for, trouble most certainly, but they had no idea what kind of trouble. Clarence sat down and added how much ammo it would take to fill 40 100-round drum magazines and 40 20-round magazines. (120x40=4,800) He had 12,000-rounds and figured he had enough for both the next 2 world wars. Ammo is like toilet paper, cigarettes or coffee; you can never have too much.

Ask Gary, he called up Eric and replaced those 12 cases of ammo and bought a dozen more just to get the same price. Eric had a special on Lake City .223 overruns and he bought a twenty-five cases of it as well. Eric's price on .22LR ammo wasn't very good at all and Derek loaded up on it at the Super Wal-Mart store. Gary had been secretly buying guns for some time and if Sharon ever found out, he was sure to get the funeral. However, he needed a good concealed carry weapon. I hinted when I told you that the S&W J-frame revolver is very compact. The air weight J-frame model 360PD only weighed 12oz. empty and shot .357 Magnum rounds. It had a scandium alloy frame, barrel shroud and yoke; titanium cylinder; overall length 6 5/16". All duded up with a pair of Crimson Trace Lasergrrips and loaded with .38 +P ammo, the gun was the perfect self-defense weapon. Gary preferred the 129-grain Federal Hydra-Shok HP at 950 fps and 260 ft. lbs. of energy.

He didn't use, but he preferred it. What he used instead was the Speer 135-grain Gold Dot .38 Special +P specifically designed for the 1 7/8" barrel. Say, have you ever heard of some guy named Ronnie Barrett? Here's what he had to say:

In the never-ending battle to destroy our constitution, more "big lie" propaganda is being dumped on our elected officials. The rhetoric given forth by the Violence Policy Center (VPC) so easily deceived the legislators of California, resulting in the banning of fifty caliber rifles because they are powerful and their bullets punch holes when they strike. Even single shot .50 cal rifles were banned. It's hard to believe we live in such a dark time that someone has actually banned a single shot rifle. But as you will see, this is the

cleverest of all gun bans, and the end goal is civilian disarmament, the confiscation of your tools of liberty, your rifles.

What lies before us is the continuation of the misinformation campaign, trying to coax yet another state to infringe upon the US Constitution as California did. The anti-freedom/anti-gun movement has discovered how transparent they appear when they propose sweeping gun bans and now are successful by biting off a little at a time. Ever so small, many politicians are trading off your rights without you recognizing their violations.

First we had the "Saturday Night Special" which was all affordable handguns, then "sniper rifles" which were any scoped deer rifles. Those were obvious, too big a scam to go unnoticed, but with the creation and demonization of the term "assault weapon," the Clinton's Crime bill produced a wasted 10-year setback on your freedoms and safe gun design. Now comes another scam. This time they are shocked to discover that rifles are "accurate and powerful."

This is the same bull the officials in the 1950's fell for when they banned the self-unfolding knife. First the knife was demonized by giving it an evil name, "switchblade," then we (the trusting public) were told that the problem of gang violence was solved with its banning. How ridiculous. It's surprising they didn't ban the leather jacket. In reality, gang violence was and is a serious social problem, but it was not related to manually unfolding verses self-unfolding knives. The elected officials voting to ban an object like a knife proved themselves unwilling or uncaring to understand the problem, and thus, incapable of any real solutions.

The handful of people that make up the VPC are solely responsible for the big lie on .50's, claiming fantastic destruction capabilities. They manipulate fear by claiming terrorists will use these rifles on targets of our infrastructure. "They will shut down our airports in flames," they claim. VPC's Tom Diaz refers to them as "super guns" lying to his dupable group of politicians, concealing the facts that there are many rifle cartridges that are comparable in performance (those will be added to the list in phase two). He is boldly telling these officials (and all who will listen) that the risk of terrorist attacks on these targets will be solved with the banning of powerful rifles, in this case, the .50 caliber rifle. In reality, terrorism is complex and will be defeated with improved intelligence. In this instance, the officials voting to ban an inanimate object like a rifle prove themselves to be ignorant of the problem of terrorism and are wasting time and resources.

You must understand the brilliance of this dangerous back door deception. Your politicians are being told that the fifty is a highly destructive cartridge that can destroy airplanes, fuel transport trucks and depot storages of fuel. They show videos like the one on 60 Minutes showing a 1/2-inch plate of steel being pierced by a .50 cal round while stopping a .308 caliber. This is all to confuse the people, those with little exposure to firearms; their impression concludes that the .50 punches holes in sensitive targets where other rifles cannot. Had they shot actual aluminum that is used on airplane construction, or aluminum or steel used in actual transport or tank construction, both the .50

and the .308 will pierce along with most all centerfire cartridges. But this, they must keep secret.

First, with the confusion of massive, (although incorrect) technical data and the hammering of urgency, the VPC demands a ban or strict regulations on rifles that chamber a cartridge that has the ability to penetrate targets. Sound ridiculous? It is.

VPC's Tom Diaz appears often on TV with maps of Washington, DC, irresponsibly instructing where to position one's self to illegally fire on vulnerable important targets of our government, promising these specific targets will be safe when .50's are banned. He pressures politicians to act quickly on this URGENT legislation needed to make these terrorist targets safe, hoping they will act before the VPC lies are discovered.

Now slow down. A ban on a rifle because the cartridge it shoots penetrates targets? By the legislation naming and defining the targets that are damageable by rifle fire, and in this case, .50 cal. rifle fire, they create a new class of rifles. This new class is not defined by such foolishness as detachable magazines, flash hiders, or pistol grips. Instead, the test is; does it fire a bullet that punches a hole, and can the hole result in damage to specified and named targets? If so, the law-abiding citizen shouldn't be allowed to have this, so they must ban this class of rifle before they can be misused. This is the very thing California has just passed!

"Now, we are only talking about those powerful .50 cal's, right? It's such a small class, no one will mind or even notice." That's what the VPC's lies have led you to believe. No, remember they are banning rifles because specific targets named in our infrastructure are susceptible to damage. Now tell me, what centerfire rifle cartridge won't punch holes in those targets? What centerfire rifle cartridge is not powerful? Not many or not any? So, in order to comply with the spirit and intent of the law, the Attorney General or State Secretary must add those cartridges to the banned list. The big lie is exposed. They aren't just talking about .50's. They're after your hunting rifles, centerfire target rifles and just about any rifle you own.

Unlike California, we cannot allow any of our local, state, or federal officials to be deceived with any of this "big lie" gun control propaganda. The US has every gun law that could possibly be needed. Virtually every real world scenario of firearm abuse is already covered in some law that is currently on the books.

Many of you have inquired as to the outcome of the letter I wrote to Police Chief Bratton of the LAPD. Unfortunately, the chief's position did not change. He continued to use his officers in the same deceptive practices formerly utilized with the city council. These few officers testifying in Sacramento ultimately contributed to the unconstitutional AB50 law being passed. It saddened me to have to tell members of the LAPD SWAT team that they would have to send someone for their rifle, because I refused to assist anyone or any organization that is in violation of the United States Constitution. In turn, the department arranged to pick up their un-serviced rifle.

Barrett cannot legally sell any of its products to lawbreakers. Therefore, since California's passing of AB50, the state is not in compliance with the US Constitution's 2nd and 14th Amendments, and we will not sell nor service any of our products to any government agency of the State of California.

I appreciate all the phone calls and E-mails from LAPD officers and civilians during that time, encouraging and supporting our actions. We shall see if other firearms companies will follow this path. I know many are corporately owned and feel like they are unable to risk the life of their company for the liberties of our nation, but if we lose our Republic, our freedom, what good is any of it? I am in the proud and fortunate position that many of our forefathers were in when they risked all for our liberties.

Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death! – Patrick Henry

This "ban large bore" insanity failed in Washington years ago, but that didn't discourage the VPC. Now it's resurfacing in city council meetings, in individual states, and it's being reintroduced in Washington. NRA-ILA Executive Director, Chris Cox, once told me "These (anti-freedom, anti-gun) guys never go away, and they never quit."

I've received thousands of E-mails and letters from you offering encouragement and support. Our Republic, our liberty, needs and demands your support. You must take action to guard your rights. First, find your State Senator and State Representative. Tell them not to fall for this scam. This lie depends on the elected official being naive about firearms and their capabilities. Stand ready to carry this same message to your US Senator and Representatives. Know all of your elected officials' positions on gun issues. Do not elect any anti-gun person to any position!

Position yourself with me in the battles that we must fight. You need to join the NRA, the Fifty Caliber Shooters Association, and the NSSF in order to stay informed. These people have been with me in the trenches, fighting for every inch of the liberty you enjoy.

Today we draw a line; there will be no more nibbling at our freedom. Today you stand idle no longer. Today you do something to save our country!

There's a man with an opinion! You can talk to your Representative or Senator until you're blue in the face. It isn't going to make any difference. The politicians already had their minds made up before they were elected. LA was so desperate to enforce its stupid laws; they imported a New Yorker as their new Chief of Police. Chief Bratton returned to New York in 1994 when Mayor Rudolph Giuliani appointed him as the 38th Police Commissioner. His re-organization of that 50,000-person department with a \$2.3 billion dollar budget resulted in a 39% decline in serious crimes and a 50% reduction in homicides. As the LAPD Chief, his responsibilities include the supervision of 9,304 sworn and 3,055 civilian employees. Chief Bratton directs all patrol, investigative and



administrative operations and administers an annual budget of \$927 million. Go back to New York or Boston where you belong.

The next thing you know, someone will be questioning John McCain's patriotism. When they threw him into the Hanoi Hilton, he had two broken arms, a broken knee and a screwed up shoulder. According to other prisoners, McCain was the most abused guest of the NVA. In 1967, he was shot down over Vietnam, and was held as a prisoner of war in Hanoi for five-and-a-half years. When his captors discovered he was the son and grandson of admirals, he was offered a chance to go home, but he refused to break the military code that POWs are released in the order that they are captured.

He was finally released from captivity in 1973, having survived the injuries he received when he was shot down, the beatings from an angry crowd and his captors, a year of torture, and two years of solitary confinement. Once released, his POW injuries prevented him from receiving a sea command, so in 1977, he became a Navy liaison to the Senate. He was discharged from the Navy in 1981 as a Captain, on the day he watched his father buried next to his grandfather, in Arlington National Cemetery. During his military career he received a Silver Star, a Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit, the Purple Heart, and a Distinguished Flying Cross. Deciding years later to not live with hatred in his heart, he forgave his captors for his treatment. Tacky, the guy must be a Christian; I'd have never forgiven them. John Kerry is a Vietnam veteran, too. And, despite rumors to the contrary, John McCain and John Kerry aren't in the same league.

Kerry's first Purple Heart came when he suffered a shrapnel wound in the left arm above the elbow. The shrapnel was removed and the wound was treated with bacitracin antibiotic and bandaged. Kerry still has shrapnel in his left thigh because the doctors tending to him decided to remove the damaged tissue and close the wound with sutures rather than make a wide opening to remove the shrapnel. Kerry was wounded twice that day, and he would receive his third Purple Heart. His injuries included shrapnel wounds in his left upper buttock, which were treated with antiseptic lotion and bandaged. He also suffered contusions (bruises) on his right forearm from hitting the bulkhead when the mine exploded near his boat, which was treated with warm soaking. Kerry also got the Bronze Star on that occasion and had earlier received the Silver Star. Kerry's commanding officer, Lieutenant George Elliott, joked that he didn't know whether to court-martial him for beaching the boat without orders or give him a medal for saving the crew. Elliott recommended Kerry for the Silver Star, and Zumwalt flew into An Thoi to personally award medals to Kerry and the rest of the sailors involved in the mission.

Never question John Kerry's patriotism. He actually had to have stitches one time. Did you every watch the movie, *The Bridges of Toko-Ri*? To put Kerry's Vietnam career into perspective, Admiral Zumwalt was Kerry's Fredric March and John Kerry was Admiral Zumwalt's William Holden. Admiral Zumwalt must have gotten tired of giving Kerry medals, he sent him home to his girlfriend, Hanoi Jane. Yes sir, both John McCain and John Kerry were heroes of the war in Vietnam. Without those Band-Aids and bacitracin, Kerry would have surely died. Did I mention that I don't like John Kerry?

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Sorry, I got off the subject. We're sitting around Flippin Arkansas waiting for the next disaster.

"Did you feel that?" Clarence asked.

"Feel what?"

"It sort of felt like an earthquake."

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The New Madrid Seismic zone lies within the central Mississippi Valley, extending from northeast Arkansas, through southeast Missouri, western Tennessee, western Kentucky to southern Illinois. Historically, this area has been the site of some of the largest earthquakes in North America. Between 1811 and 1812, 4 catastrophic earthquakes, with magnitude estimates greater than 7.0, occurred during a 3-month period. Hundreds of aftershocks followed over a period of several years. The largest earthquakes to have occurred since then were on January 4, 1843 and October 31, 1895 with magnitude estimates of 6.0 and 6.2 respectively. In addition to these events, seven events of magnitude  $\geq 5.0$  have occurred in the area. Instruments were installed in and around this area in 1974 to closely monitor seismic activity. Since then, more than 4000 earthquakes have been located, most of which are too small to be felt. On average one earthquake per year will be large enough to be felt in the area.

The New Madrid seismic zone is so named because the town of New Madrid, Missouri was the closest settlement to the epicenters of the 1811-1812 quakes. At that time, St. Louis and other major cities in the central US were sparsely settled. At least 3 of the series of earthquakes were felt throughout much of the US and as far away as Quebec. The potential for the recurrence of such earthquakes and their impact today on densely populated cities in and around the seismic zone, has generated much research devoted to understanding earthquakes. By closely monitoring the earthquake activity, scientists can hope to understand their causes, recurrence rates, ground motion and disaster mitigation. The probability for an earthquake of magnitude 6.0 or greater is significant in the near future, with a 50% chance by the year 2000 and a 90% chance by the year 2040. A quake with a magnitude equal to that of the 1811-1812 quakes could result in great loss of life and property damage in the billions of dollars. Scientists believe we could be overdue for a large earthquake and through research and public awareness may be able to prevent such losses.

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The New Madrid Fault was to the east of Flippin,  $\frac{1}{2}$  a state away. Gary didn't feel whatever it was that Clarence was talking about, it wasn't the New Madrid Seismic Zone. Unless an earthquake rattled their mirror doors, Gary never knew when they happened. It

couldn't be as bad as living on top of the San Andreas Fault out in Palmdale. Perhaps Clarence was just over sensitive, he only lived a mile from the San Andreas back in California. From chapter 2 of the story: The tallest forms the contractor had available were 9' forms and Gary suggested that he use them. He wanted the walls a minimum of 9" thick and a foot would make him happier. To finish their new home off, Gary put a 30kw Onan residential generator and an air filtration system for the basement. The overhead of the basement was made from pre-stressed concrete slabs. Did I mention they were 12" thick? What's the point of building an elaborate shelter without a good lid?

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"It must be your imagination, Clarence, I didn't feel anything," Gary replied.

"How far are we from that fault zone?"

"It follows the Mississippi River, Clarence. I think I-55 runs just east of the fault. Its east of Jonesboro and that's about 150 miles. We might shake, rattle and roll if they have a Big One, but considering the alternatives, Flippin is pretty safe. They have earthquakes everywhere. Iowa has had a few and Manhattan Island has several faults."

Scientists estimate that the probability of a magnitude 6 to 7 earthquake occurring in this seismic zone within the next 50 years is higher than 90%. Such an earthquake could hit the Mississippi Valley at any time. It would be a bad quake when it happened. The region is home to millions of people, including those in the cities of St. Louis, Missouri, and Memphis, Tennessee. Adding to the danger, most structures in the region were not built to withstand earthquake shaking, as they have been in California and Japan. Moreover, earthquake preparations also have lagged far behind. Earthquakes in the central or eastern United States affect much larger areas than earthquakes of similar magnitude in the western United States. For example, the San Francisco, California, earthquake of 1906 (magnitude 7.8) was felt 350 miles away in the middle of Nevada, whereas the New Madrid earthquake of December 1811 (magnitude 8.0) rang church bells in Boston, Massachusetts, 1,000 miles away. Differences in geology east and west of the Rocky Mountains cause this strong contrast.

Clarence went to a window and looked at the sky. "Gary, if a tornado doesn't get us, and we escape the earthquake, I'd bet a rock would pop out from behind the sun and wipe out the planet. I don't think Russia would attack us now, but you never know about these things."

"Russia will wait until we get the country rebuilt, Clarence. That's going to be a while. You're as fatalistic as I am."

"That's what I get for being around you for so long."

(Fatalism: 1 – The doctrine that all events are predetermined by fate and are therefore unalterable; and, 2 – Acceptance of the belief that all events are predetermined and inevitable.)

By the time you get to your 60's you have seen a lot. Much of what you have seen defies explanation. It tends to be very difficult to avoid being a little fatalistic. You've seen epidemics, tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, volcanic eruptions and those are just the natural hazards. If you're old enough, you've also seen a World War, a 3-year Police Action, an 8-year war we lost because it wasn't winnable and countless other fights, the latest being the nuclear exchange between the US and North Korea followed by the exchange between China and the US. Maybe things like wars aren't predetermined, but name a few wars that were avoided after the ball got rolling. The only one I can think of was The Cold War, which never really ended like everyone thought it did until China and the US ended it.

Military forces use first strikes, also called preemptive strikes, when they need surprise or the extra strength they get from the element of surprise. The US made a first strike on Korea when they saw the Koreans fueling their missiles. That first strike worked. The US made a first strike on China with 2 cruise missiles when China attacked Taiwan. The first strike didn't work. The difference was in the US's approach to the problems. They took out all 7+ of the North Korean missiles. If they were going to do that to China, they needed to attack all of China's missiles simultaneously using Trident II missiles. When they didn't, China retaliated. The devil is always in the details. The fly time on a coastal launch of a Trident II is a matter of very few minutes; perhaps so short China couldn't have retaliated. The sad part was the US knew this because that was what the Cuban Missile Crisis was about. People who forget history...

Japan made a preemptive strike on the US at Pearl Harbor. They missed the carriers and the battleship had already seen its day. In 1967, the Israelis made a preemptive strike against the Egyptians. In the first 24-hours, Israel destroyed almost 300 Egyptian aircraft and pushed the Egyptians back toward the Suez Canal. It was called the Suez Crisis and Israel won. They warned Jordan not to intervene and the Jordanians ignored them. That cost the Jordanians their air force and the West Bank. Moshe Dayan hadn't planned on taking either the Gaza Strip or the West Bank. Forty years later, Israel was still fighting with the Palestinians. The First Gulf War was won by using a preemptive strike against Iraq and following it up with a major land battle that lasted only 4 days. Operation Iraqi Freedom captured Iraq in 3 weeks, but the US screwed the pooch because they lacked the final element of every preemptive strike, a viable exit strategy. Lack of a viable exit strategy was also Japan and Israel's mistake.

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There is a disaster every minute of every hour of every day of every year somewhere in the United States. It might be something as simple as that auto accident. It might be something as serious as one of those super volcanoes erupting. According to NOAA, the 2005 hurricane season was going to be worse than 2004 and 2006 was going to be

worse than 2005. It had something to do with a 30-year hurricane cycle. I sure hope the squirrels down in Florida got the generators, spare gas and flashlight batteries. On December 3, 2004, Dr. Gray's team issued their first extended range forecast for the 2005 season. They predicted a slightly above-average season, with 11 named storms, 6 reaching hurricane strength, and 3 reaching Category 3 on the Saffir-Simpson scale. Additionally, they predicted a greatly increased chance of a major hurricane striking the East Coast of the United States and the Florida peninsula. However, even these above-normal forecasts are below the activity level of the 2004 season.

In their April 1, 2005 update, Dr. Gray's team revised their December forecast upwards. The updated forecast predicts 13 named storms, 7 hurricanes, with three reaching Category 3 strength or greater. The odds of a storm striking the US were also raised slightly. The first 13 names on the list of 2005 hurricanes are Arlene, Bret, Cindy, Dennis, Emily, Franklin, Gert, Harvey, Irene, Jose, Katrina, Lee and Maria. The other names are Nate, Ophelia, Philippe, Rita, Stan, Tammy, Vince and Wilma.

I wonder if Tammy will get the doctor this year? Who made the best Tammy, Debbie Reynolds or Sandra Dee? Sandra Dee died on February 20, 2005, but Debbie is hanging in there. Having survived losing her first husband to Elizabeth Taylor, she was becoming the unsinkable Debbie Reynolds. Her second husband lost his fortune, and hers, too. She had to keep working and turned to stage musicals when Hollywood stopped making them. Now she has her own casino in Las Vegas, a home for her Hollywood museum. Debbie went broke and sold the hotel and casino. And, her daughter Carrie looked pretty good in a bikini as Princess Leia. (Nice legs.)

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Gary looked out the window too, but he didn't see any rocks hurling in from the sun. Clarence left to go home and practice his bugle. Gary decided it was time to update his inventory of survival supplies.

Food – 21 people for ~ 1-year ✓  
Coffee – 240 pounds ✓  
Propane – 2,950 gallons ✓  
Gasoline – 300-gallons ✓  
.22 – 10,000 ✓  
.223 – 15,000 ✓  
.308 – 62,000 ✓  
.32 Auto – 250 ✓  
.38 +P – 1,000 ✓  
.357 – 1,000 ✓  
.45ACP – 2,000 ✓  
.45 Colt – 2,000 ✓  
12-gauge slugs – 1,000 ✓  
12-gauge 00 buckshot – 1,000 ✓  
Flashlight batteries ✓

Kerosene ✓

Cigarettes – 60 cartons of Kools and 15 cartons of Marlboro ✓

Toilet paper – 50 packages of 30 rolls each ✓

Prescriptions – 2-year supply ✓

Princess Leia – on backorder

Peter Mayhew at 7'3" played Chewbacca. Among the aliens in Jabba the Hutt's entourage are ones named "Klaatu," "Barada" and "Nikto," after the command given to the robot Gort in *The Day the Earth Stood Still* (1951). The dancer that Jabba drops into the Rancor pit loses her top as she falls in. (Missed that.) David Prowse only portrayed Darth Vader completely for the first half of the movie. In the second half of the movie, the character was played by Bob Anderson (stuntman/sword master) during the fight sequence, and Sebastian Shaw after the character is unmasked. James Earl Jones voiced the character throughout, with the exception of the unmasking scene. Carrie Fisher complained about her costumes in the previous two movies. She said they were so long, you could not tell, "she was a woman". Those complaints led to the skimpy outfit she wore as Jabba's prisoner.

Lock Martin played Gort in *The Day the Earth Stood Still*. He was 7'7" tall. Patricia Neal has admitted in interviews that she was completely unaware during the filming that the film would turn out so well and become one of the great science-fiction classics of all time. She assumed it would be just another one of the then-current and rather trashy flying saucer films that were popular at the time, and she found it difficult to keep a straight face while saying her lines. She and her boyfriend made 3 movies together. Her boyfriend was my namesake, Gary Cooper. He was married but quite the ladies' man. When she and her husband of 30 years got divorced, he married her (former) best friend. Yes I'm stalling, it's too late in the chapter to start something and introduce you to Cliff Hanger.